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1984 Season Preview



Huskers

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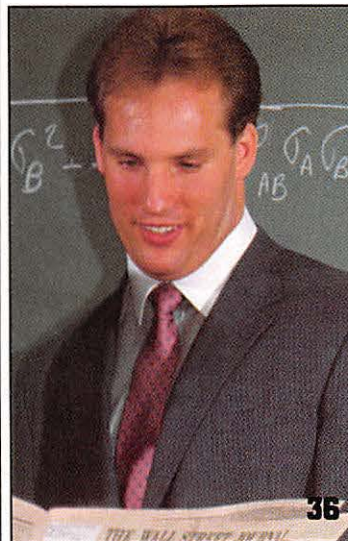
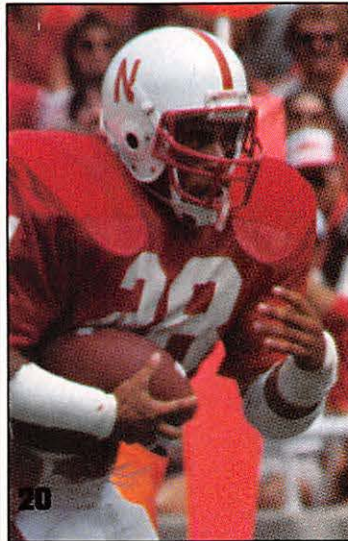
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Whether its sports or academics, NU is tops!

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On The Cover

Ursula Walsh, NU Academic Counselor, thinks Rob Stuckey is the epitome of "The Educated Man." The Academic All-American will finish his final season with the Huskers and then prepare for Harvard Business School to which he was recently granted admission. Carrying a 3.869 grade point in finance, Stuckey is but one example of the kind of student-athlete Nebraska produces.

In The Next Issue

Features Harry Grimminger, starting offensive guard; Bob Brown: Where Is He Now? and a report on future varsity players plus much more!

Huskers Illustrated...

(ISSN 0279-3474) is published twenty (20) times annually: weekly in September, October and November, except twice weekly the first week of October and the first week in November, and monthly in January, March, May, June, August and December by University Sports Publications, Inc., 7418 East 42nd Place, Suite 400, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145. Second class postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to *Huskers Illustrated*, Circulation Office, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Subscriptions — \$29.95 per year. Nebraska residents add 4% sales tax. For subscription information, write: *Huskers Illustrated*, Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Permission to reprint material contained in this magazine must be obtained in writing from the Publisher.

Telephone number for editorial and advertising offices is (918) 664-0082. Lithoed in Canada. Back issues of *Huskers Illustrated* may be obtained when available at \$3.00 each. When ordering, include volume and number of issues desired.

Letters



Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I just completed reading your May/June issue of *Huskies Illustrated* from cover to cover. I truly enjoy your magazine. The story about the amount of time the Nebraska football coaches put into game preparation was particularly interesting. The dedication by those coaches is something we should not lose sight of. By the way, that jayvee defensive coordinator, Craig Bohl, sure is handsome. Is he single?

Another Californian for Nebraska,
Juanita P. Fife
Malibu, Calif.

●EDITOR'S NOTE — Apparently you're not the only one impressed with Craig's looks. Coach Bohl became half of a Mr. & Mrs. Bohl combination on the last weekend in July. Hope we haven't broken too many hearts in Husker Land.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I'm writing this letter to ask you if there is any way that I can buy the new poster named "Go for four in '84," and if so, for how much?

And also to wish the '84 Cornhuskers good luck this coming season.

Troy Veach
Marshall, MN

●EDITOR'S NOTE — The posters to which you refer were printed by a private business, not by the university, and apparently the supply was limited. Looks like you may be out of luck, unless you find someone who has an extra.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I may be one of the oldest followers Nebraska has as I went to Lincoln in 1922 from the Black Hills and stayed until 1951. I will be 83 next January and consider myself a young 60 and all I still consider is to follow the great system of Nebraska football and all their sports and the greatest school spirit in the USA.

I'm just thankful that I will get to see this year's game between Nebraska and UCLA, and I think they will be undefeated this year for sure.

I might add that the greatest lineman at Nebraska I ever watched was Ed Weir in the 1920s and the best running back was Bobby Reynolds.

Eugene E. Brouillette
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Living as far away from the Land of Lincoln as we do, I've read all kinds of reports on how the Supreme Court ruling will affect the televising of college football games, but not one word on how it might affect my Cornhuskers.

Can you shed some light on what to expect this fall?

Ron Nelson
Detroit, MI

If you have questions or comments, you may write the BIG RED MAILBAG, Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501.

●EDITOR'S NOTE — Some light is about all we, or anyone else, can shed at press time.

Nebraska is a member of the Big Eight Conference, and Big Eight Conference members are members of both the NCAA and the CFA (College Football Association). Members of the CFA, which includes all major conferences except the Pac-10 and the Big 10, plus several major independents, have signed a contract with ABC-TV which gives that network priority selection on TV games. Under current rules, no school may appear on those national (or major regional) telecasts more than four times in any one season.

The CFA also signed a contract with ESPN, a national cable network, which will televise games in a time period other than the usual Saturday afternoon span. CFA members may appear addi-



tionally on ESPN one time (or two times if they are not on any of the ABC telecasts).

The third priority for telecast rights goes, in the Big Eight Conference, to Katz Sports Network. That independent network will televise Big Eight games, with member schools being eligible up to three times during the year.

Now, if you can figure out just how that will affect Husker football telecasts, you're a better man than most!

Making things even worse is the fact that any — or all — of that could change at almost any time before the season starts. Probably not. But no one knows just what to expect.

What you're probably going to see is a package which will have Nebraska on ABC at least a couple of times, with the most likely being games with UCLA and Oklahoma. But there are problems with the dates of both of those games and conflicting games which ABC would like to carry. So far there has been nothing to indicate dates will be changed for the sake of TV coverage.

The Huskers will also be seen on ESPN during

the year in all likelihood. And Katz undoubtedly will try to line up NU games against Big Eight foes like Missouri or Oklahoma State under the conference tie-up.

The end result? No one knows for sure, but you can figure on seeing the Huskers five, six or even seven times if you live in the Midwest, where the Katz games will probably be picked up in almost every major area. If you live far east or far west or far south, you'll be relying upon ESPN and ABC, and you'll probably just have to be patient, as scheduling will be week-to-week in many instances.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Thank you for listing the Red and White teams in your writeup of the spring game. It answered many of my questions concerning the status of various Husker players.

Please discuss the status of the following players: Andre Lambert, Kevin McCormick, Eric Buchanan, Shannon Davidson, Jerry Upton, Jimmy Drayton and Scott Hill.

If time and space allows, please comment on these players: Greg Divis, Scott Napier, Scott Marfinmaas, Scott Schoettger, Todd Cope, Dave Dietz, Tim Rother, John Bunker, Shane Redwine, Danny Grosturth, Rob Armstrong, Kurt Whitman, Dan Ripa, Tim Lynch, Terry Van Horn, Dave Stacy, Joe Napodano, Gerald Marfisi, Eddie Gray and John Amphar.

Mike Henson
Golden, CO

●EDITOR'S NOTE — You might note the team roster on Page 28 of this issue. But we'll go over the players you mentioned anyway. Hill, Schoettger, Dietz, Rother and Bunker are all listed on the current roster. All of the others you asked about are not listed on the roster.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Having watched the Huskers romp around the Big Eight Conference for several years, I was a little surprised recently when I noticed that future league schedules have Nebraska playing Oklahoma at Lincoln in both 1986 and 1987. I thought that the teams alternated getting the home field advantage every other year (although the home field certainly hasn't done the Sooners any good the last couple of times the *real* Big Red has gone south).

Henry Fleming
Park Forrest, IL

●EDITOR'S NOTE — When Oklahoma State joined the conference in 1958 it necessitated some adjustments in the schedules of the other teams.

The result was some teams playing out of order in the home-and-home alternating system that had been in use. In order to catch everyone up, it was decided to reverse the scheduling at a later date. So all of the teams in the league are having to do a little making up for past adjustments. Oklahoma, for instance, plays two years in a row in Lincoln, but plays at home two years in a row against Oklahoma State and Missouri. The Huskers play Kansas and Colorado on the road in each of those two years. Then everything will get back to normal.

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Inside Husker sports

The recently established NCAA rule requiring student-athletes to declare majors by their junior years and make satisfactory progress by passing at least 24 credit hours in the degree programs of those majors during each of their remaining years in school should have no negative effects at Nebraska.

According to NU athletic department academic counselor Dr. Ursula Walsh, "The rule won't change much of anything from what we've been doing at Nebraska. In the past, we've required our athletes to pass 24 hours of classroom work a year, with a 2.0 grade-point average."

The NCAA requirements had been less stringent; a 1.6 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, if the student-athlete had accumulated fewer than 60 credit hours, or a 1.8 average if he or she had completed more than 60 hours.

Nebraska football Coach Tom Osborne now requires his players to carry and pass 15 credit hours per semester instead of 12. "Tom was concerned about the number of players who, with the pro draft and other distractions during the second semester of their senior year, were failing to graduate on time," said Walsh.

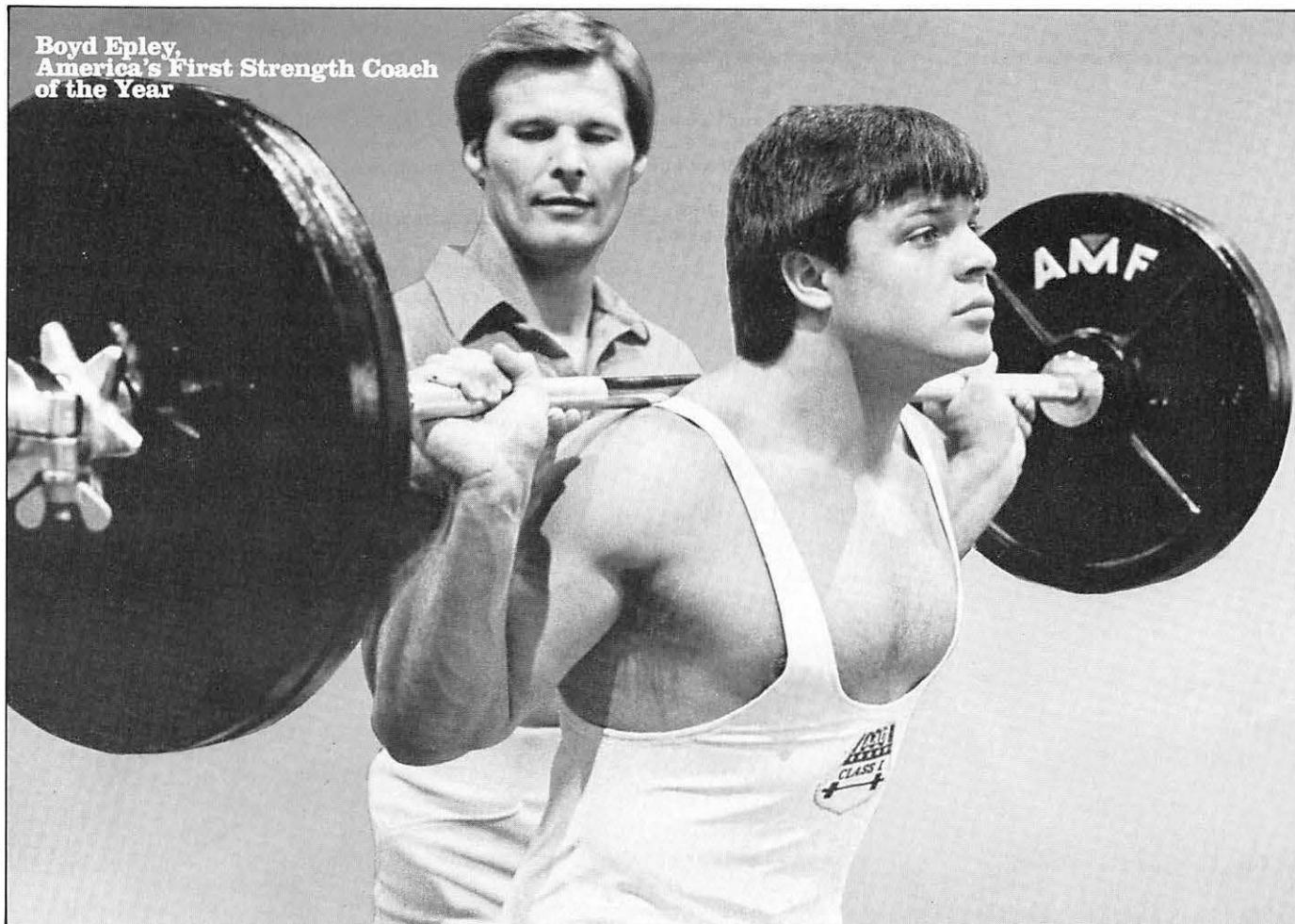
"By requiring 30 hours a year instead of 24, they'll be close to graduation at the end of four years. A player who's been redshirted will be able to graduate in December, when his eligibility is completed. Then, those other distractions won't matter."

Walsh thinks allowing a student-athlete two years to decide on a major is important. "That will give us time to work on their skills and get many group requirements out of the way."

"The abuse at some schools has been that the athlete, for his entire time in school, has been allowed to take easy courses all over the lot that never lead to a degree," Walsh said. "We haven't allowed that anyway."

Merlene Ottey, the Big Eight Conference Female Athlete of the Year was always the center of attention following a race, as here at the Big Eight Indoor meet.

Boyd Epley,
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of the Year



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Kurt Eubanks was granted an additional season of eligibility after the NCAA made the redshirt policy retroactive.

Walsh takes a different attitude, noting the new rule "will nudge the players toward greater effort and dedication in the classroom."

Jobman injured

Cornhusker football recruit Randall Jobman, a Nebraska All-Stater from Oshkosh High School, lost his right thumb in a roping accident at a rodeo arena in his home town of Lisco, Neb.

Jobman and some friends were practicing roping, and the rope got twisted around the thumb. He was flown to a hospital in Denver, where he underwent 11 hours of surgery to reattach the thumb.

"I know that after a while, I'm going to be able to heal," said Jobman, who was recruited as

"But we do know that educational opportunities are not equal in every school system in all parts of the country. The NCAA can't solve that problem with one swipe of the pen.

"If someone has been badly under-educated at the high school level, you don't want to start him right out in chemical engineering, where his failure would be assured."

Nebraska's attitude toward academics won't have to change to be compatible with the new NCAA rule.

"If we're sincere about them getting an education, and we are at Nebraska, that's the important thing," said Walsh. "Because we feel that way, I don't think the change is too much to ask. In fact, I welcome the legislation. If a player is drifting through his first year, I can say, 'Hey, in two more semesters you have to declare a major. Let's take some tests, look at your skills and find your niche.'"

Several college football coaches across the country see the new rule as a threat to a significant number of their athletes. Such coaches complain that the new requirements are unfair because they're more stringent than those applied to non-athletes.

a linebacker.

Because of the injury and the time it will require to heal, Jobman may not enroll at Nebraska until second semester. He had been selected to play in the state's annual Shrine Bowl All-Star football game.

here and there...

Former Nebraska sprinter Merlene Ottey was named the Big Eight Conference female "Athlete of the Year" for the 1983-84 season. Ottey competed for the Huskers during the indoor season. During her remarkable collegiate career, she won four 100 meter titles, four 200 meter titles, four 60-yard dash titles, and three 300-yard dash titles at the Big Eight level.

Ottey is the third Nebraska athlete to be so honored. In 1975, Tom Ruud was named the conference male "Athlete of the Year," an honor bestowed on gymnast Jim Hartung in 1982....

Nebraska's Tom Osborne was chosen the top college football coach in the country in an informal poll of college coaches, according to a story in *Athlon's 1984 Nebraska & Big Eight Football Annual*.

Osborne received 20 of 59 votes from coaches

asked: "Who is the best coach in America and why?"

Penn State's Joe Paterno and Michigan's Bo Schembechler tied for second place in the poll, with nine votes each....

Nebraska earned more than \$1,500,000 in television-related football income during the 1983 season, far and away tops in the Big Eight Conference. Of that total, \$546,000 came from the Cornhuskers' appearance in the first Kickoff Classic at Giants' Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

"It definitely was the best year ever," according to Gary Fouraker, NU athletic department business manager.

Because Big Eight schools divide television revenue with other league members, Nebraska produced approximately \$320,000 for each of its seven conference rivals. Oklahoma was second in that category, generating approximately \$145,000 per school....

Former Cornhusker and Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier was slated to undergo surgery on his left ankle, following his rookie season in the United States Football League.

"I don't want to be walking on a cane when I'm 32 years old and in pain," said Rozier, who received a reported \$3.1 million over three years to sign with the USFL Pittsburgh Maulers....

Former Cornhusker quarterback Turner Gill made his regular-season debut with the Montreal Concordes of the Canadian Football League by completing 15 of 27 passes for 220 yards and one touchdown. The Concordes, however, lost to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, 49-31.

Gill started the game. His TD pass play, at 2:13 of the third quarter, went to Brian DeRoo and covered 26 yards....

Craig Bohl, a graduate and part-time assistant football coach the last three years at Nebraska, was named the defensive backfield coach at North Dakota State. Bohl played briefly at defensive back for the Cornhuskers before becoming a graduate assistant....

Gary Fouraker, Nebraska's athletic department business manager, said that more than 9,000 square yards of artificial turf, removed during Memorial Stadium's resurfacing this summer, was sold to various purchasers.

According to Fouraker, most of the old turf was taken from the field in strips 15 feet wide and 160 feet long.

High schools purchased several of the large pieces to carpet dressing rooms and weight rooms. The university is using some of the old turf in the halls at the Devaney Sports Center.

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Three Husker greats (from left to right), Roger Craig, preparing for his second NFL season with the San Francisco 49ers; Charlie Greene, former Olympic Gold Medalist; and Mike Rozier, whose rookie season in the USFL was hampered by ankle problems.

Cost of the new turf was approximately \$380,000; money raised through donations to the athletic department by way of the Nebraska Foundation. The new turf is called Polyloom and is similar to the artificial surfaces at Oklahoma's Owen Field and Kansas State's KSU Stadium.

basball bits

Former Nebraska pitcher Jeff Anderson was sent to the Chicago White Sox Class A team at Niagara Falls, N.Y., in the New York-Pennsylvania League, following the June major league draft and his signing.

When Anderson arrived in Niagara Falls, one of the first people he met was Dave White, a right-handed pitcher from St. Francis College in Joliet, Ill., who had been Anderson's roommate during his freshman year at Nebraska.

White transferred to St. Francis, following his freshman year, and "I never heard from him after that," Anderson said. "Then, I walk in the other day, and there he is."

Anderson's mom was a little nervous when her son left home in Nampa, Idaho, for Niagara Falls. "She told me not to get hooked, since that's where all the honeymooners go," said Anderson.

Cornhusker Coach John Sanders gave him similar advice. "Coach just told me to watch myself," he said....

Kurt Eubanks, a three-year regular at second base for Nebraska, is likely to become a five-year letterman next season after being granted an additional year of eligibility under the NCAA's retroactive redshirt rule.

Eubanks batted only 20 times in 17 games during his freshman season, 1981. Under the new NCAA rule, athletes can apply for a retroactive redshirt if they appeared in 20 percent or less of their team's season.

Eubanks, a tri-captain, didn't learn of the possibility he could play another year until late May. "I was taking some batting practice one day, preparing for the draft, and Coach called me into his office and asked me if I wanted to come back," Eubanks said. "I said, 'Why, did somebody change my transcripts or something?'"

"That's when he told me about the new rule. I told him to go for it."

Eubanks was not taken in the major league draft. During the summer, he revamped his batting style, standing more up-right in an attempt to generate more extra-base hits. The first time he tried the new stance, at Sanders' suggestion, Eubanks "yanked a couple of pitches out of the yard."....

Bryan Newton, a freshman first baseman who spent last season as a redshirt, will transfer to Murray State Junior College in Tishomingo, Okla., this fall. Newton plans to return to Nebraska in the fall of 1985.



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on schedule

NU women's basketball Coach Kelly Hill says her 1984-85 team will have "one of the most challenging pre-season schedules in the school's history." The slate includes:

Nov. 23-24 — Nebraska Invitational (Arizona, Clemson, Wisconsin, Nebraska), 30 — at Dial Classic (Arizona State, Tennessee, Minnesota).

Dec. 1 — at Dial Classic, 8 — at Creighton, 12 — South Dakota, 22 — Texas Tech, 29-30 — at Domino's Pizza Wolverine Classic (Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Washington).

Jan. 3 — at Oregon, 4 — at New Mexico, 9 — at Iowa, 12 — Northeastern Illinois, 16 — Kansas State, 19 — at Oklahoma State, 23 — Colorado, 26 — Missouri, 30 — at Iowa State.

Feb. 2 — Kansas, 6 — at Oklahoma, 9 — Oklahoma State, 13 — at Colorado, 16 — at Kansas State, 20 — Iowa State, 23 — at Missouri, 27 — at Kansas.

March 2 — Oklahoma, 5 — first round of Big Eight Tournament at campus sites, 7-8 — Big Eight Tournament semifinals and final in Kansas City.

NUIUCLA Big Red Rally

Plan now to attend one of the largest Husker pre-game events ever to be held! Nebraska alumni

and fans will gather, prior to the Nebraska/UCLA football game, under a large red and white tent on the sprawling grounds of the 18th fairway at the Brookside Golf Course adjacent to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

The rally is scheduled to start 3½ hours before kickoff, or 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 22. The game will be broadcast on CBS beginning at 6 p.m., pacific coast time; but, if for some reason the kickoff time changes, just remember — **3½ hours before kickoff!**

A large picnic buffet and continuous popcorn service (with Nebraska popcorn) is planned. There will also be a number of cash bars. The Nebraska Yell Squad will lead the pep rally and a jazz band will be playing Husker songs.

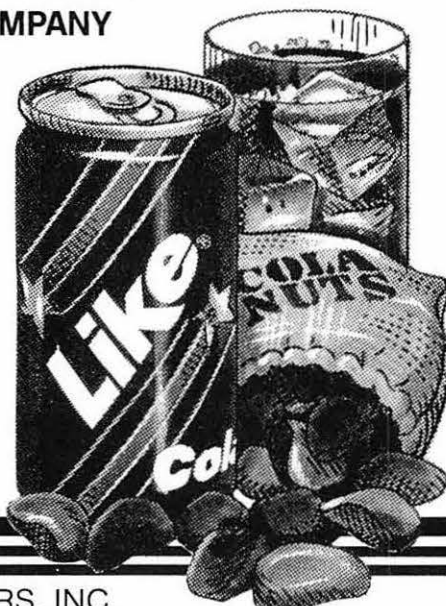
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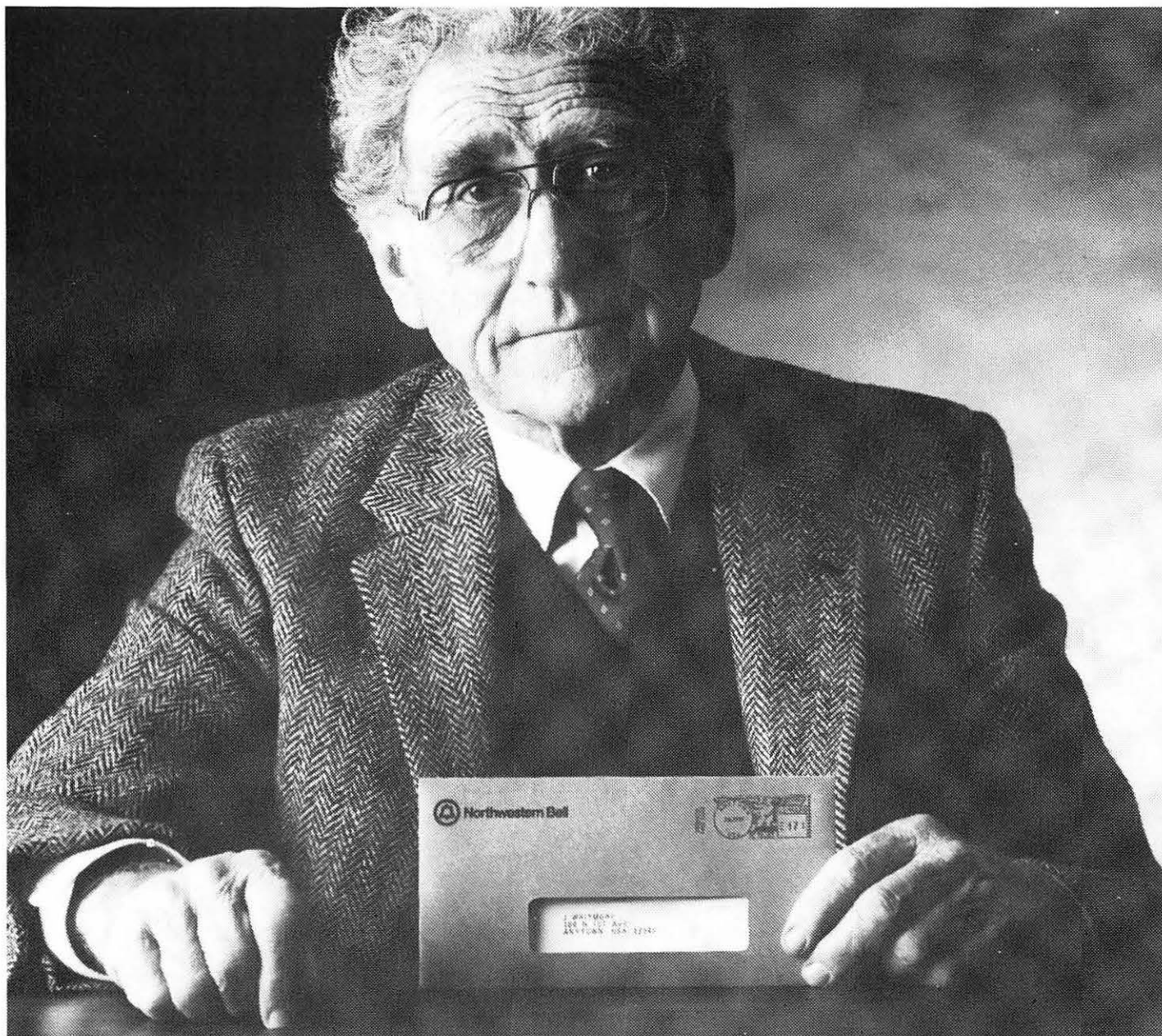
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Larry Kramer, No. 75 for the Huskers in 1964.

Whatever Happened To Larry Kramer?

Former Husker was on the 75th American Football Coaches All-America Team in

1964, was drafted by the pros later that year, then drifted into obscurity....

By Chuck Sinclair

The center was Dick Butkus of Illinois, one halfback, Kansas' Gale Sayers. The University of California's Craig Morton was one of two quarterbacks.

That's fast company on the football field, but the University of Nebraska's Larry Kramer fit right in with talent and ability on the 75th American Football Coaches All-America team from 1964.

Labeled a can't-miss pro prospect, Kramer was ranked ahead of the likes of Fred Biletnikoff, Tommy Nobis, Howard Twilley, Mike Garrett and Brian Piccolo in honors' status as a consensus All-America.

Kramer had been drafted as a "future" by Baltimore his junior year, but the Colts traded his rights to Minnesota for linebacker John Campbell.

That set just fine with the Austin, Minn., native, who passed up a lucrative offer from the Denver Broncos to join the NFL Vikings and get closer to home.

His signing was big news. He and teammate Bob Hohn received headlines when both inked contracts, Hohn to Los Angeles while Kramer was going home.

"It's a pretty good contract," Kramer said following the signing in 1964. "Better than what I had expected. I probably would have gotten more with Denver, but I wanted to go back home."

What was to follow the next few months for the offensive lineman of massive proportions is a part of his past he'd just as soon forget, but nevertheless one he's owned up to and accepted.

He walked out of the Vikings' Bemidji,

Minn., training camp on two different occasions, ending his professional playing career before it ever got started.

The first was July 24, when he hopped a bus and headed for his home at Austin.

Kramer was forgiven after going AWOL the first time a week deep into camp. The second time, only a week later, Vikings' coach Norm Van Brocklin said "adios," and so did Kramer.

The player who had made impressive headlines at Nebraska was making them in a different manner.

"Kramer Leaves Again"

"Kramer's Wife Know's (where he is), But She's Not Telling"

He told *Lincoln Journal Sports* Editor Kurt Mosher at the time that "it (pro football) wasn't like college. I enjoyed football at Nebraska. But there was time for other things. Here, there were meetings and that. And your whole time was taken up with football."

The play-for-pay concept of sports just did not set well with Kramer. "The money didn't mean that much to me. I was at the point where going out on the field didn't mean that much to me."

Now he admits he went into camp ill prepared for the rigors of professional football training camp.

"I have no excuses about what happened. I don't want to make them," he says. "I was out in Buffalo for two weeks prior to camp for the All-Star game, and I just didn't prepare. I went with the attitude that I was going to make the team instead of I had to make the team."

"I found out that it was like starting all over again in football, and I wasn't prepared to do that."

Yet the experience didn't sour Kramer on football entirely...just the playing aspect.

Following his decision to give up playing, he assumed the duties of a graduate assistant under Bob Devaney at Nebraska, then followed it with 20 years of coaching service.

Kramer, who started as a head coach at McCook Junior College after one year as an assistant to Rex Grossart, also spent time at Southern Oregon College in Ashland, Ore., and Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where his Kangaroos captured the NAIA National Championship

in 1982.

After building the Austin College program to a position of stature he felt comfortable with, Kramer moved again, this time to Emporia State in Emporia, Kansas, where he started with a 2-8 season last fall.

Given a few years, he hopes to mold a tradition at Emporia State that glistens with respectability...much like he's done with his own life — one that once resembled a roller coaster ride.

"I've made more mistakes in my 42 years than any 10 people have in 20 years," Kramer says. "I made a lot of mistakes...a lot of foolish mistakes. I guess it was just a part of growing up. Like the Viking thing. I wasn't mature at all when I went to the Vikings, and I didn't know how to handle it.

"I've lived with that for a long time. It may be a good thing that it happened, but I'm not very proud of it. I think I let a lot of people down."

If he did, he's taken great pains to make those same people proud of him. It hasn't always been easy.

A head coach at McCook at age 25, Kramer followed a coaching legend in Grossart, and had coaching success from the start.

Kramer was 17-10-3 in three seasons, and the Indians were ranked No. 14 in the final National Junior College Athletic Association poll with a 5-4-1 record. The team's biggest victory in his final season at McCook was a win over the Nebraska freshman team including players like Johnny Rodgers, John Dutton, Rich Glover, Monte Johnson, Joe Blahak, Willie Harper, Bill Olds and Daryl White.

His move took him to Southern Oregon College in Ashland, where he learned the harsh realities of coaching.

At 30-years-old, with a wife and three children to support, the administration at Southern Oregon decided they didn't like the 3-16 record in Kramer's first two years.

"I had a three year contract, and I wouldn't resign," Kramer says. "I told them they'd have to fire me."

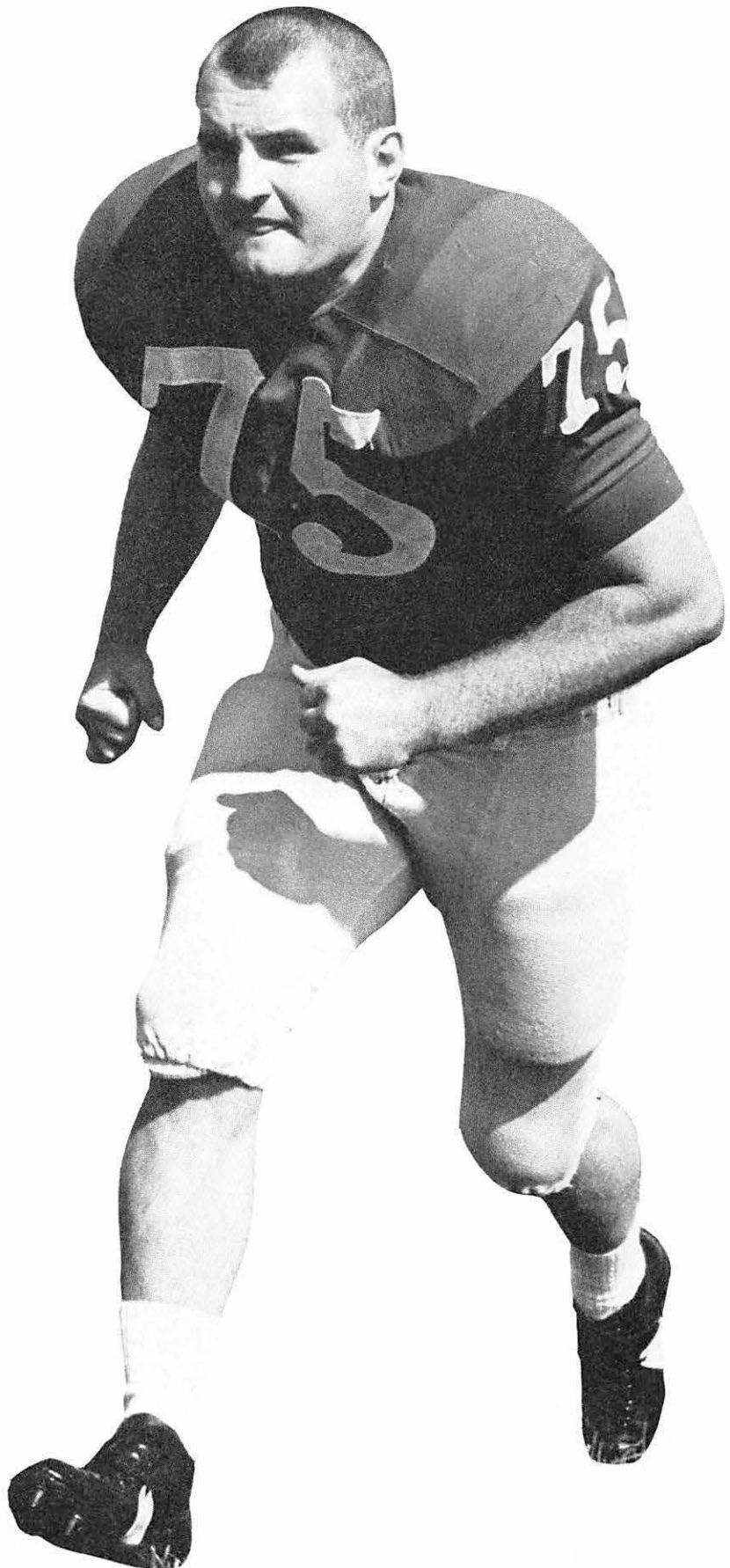
They did.

They also cut his salary drastically, forcing him to work nights in a lumber mill 10 miles away to make ends meet.

"No one is ever ready to get dismissed from anything. I thought at that age, and after what had happened to me previously, that I was invincible," he says. "I didn't think anything like that would ever happen to me.

"In the long run, it was probably the best thing that ever happened to me. It really made me mature. I had to grow up.

"It made me realize you had to work at this game, and do it the way people on top of you wanted things done. At the time it was really tough to see it that way. Getting fired was just a devastating thing."



After sitting out from coaching a year, Kramer was hired on to the staff at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, as a defensive coordinator.

He was there less than two weeks when the administration at Austin wanted a change of their own, and elevated Kramer to head coach, moving the previous head coach to an assistant position on Kramer's staff.

"I had mixed emotions about that because I had seen it happen before (the dismissal), but I was happy to be a head coach again," Kramer says. "And the guy I replaced was just super. He stayed and helped me for a year as an assistant. He was a fine person. I grew a lot seeing how he handled that situation. It was tough for him, and tough for me, but he made the best out of it."

Where Southern Oregon was a negative experience, Austin College turned out totally positive, the type of influence Kramer needed to keep himself going.

"Austin was an experience that relates to the one we had in McCook," Kramer says. "It was a great experience for both me and my family. We made a lot of great friends in both places. Texas football was tremendous. I was fortunate to be around great athletes and great people. It made me positive about the game of football."

Kramer spent 10 years at Austin, capping his coaching effort with the NAIA national crown in '82.

That was a chance for him to repay some

of those he felt he had let down earlier in his career with gratitude.

He paid a tribute to Nebraska Coach Bob Devaney at a Hall of Fame luncheon in Houston where he was given the National Championship trophy.

"I want to pay a special tribute to Coach Devaney," Kramer told those in attendance. "Bob Devaney gave me my real chance in football, and I'll be forever grateful."

The University of Nebraska obviously harbored some special memories for Kramer.

He felt close to Devaney after a disheartening experience as a redshirt under then coach Bill Jennings. After nearly transferring to Minnesota when Jennings told him of his plans to redshirt him on the sidelines near the end of the season-opener, Devaney came in from Wyoming to replace Jennings. He encouraged Kramer to go all out in the future, and Kramer responded.

Not many players in that vintage of University of Nebraska football had played in three bowl games, but Kramer did. And not many were drafted as futures, but Kramer was.

Defensive line coach George Kelly also helped Kramer through the rough time, offering encouragement before Devaney arrived.

The Kramer's first child, Kelly, was born the Thursday before the Oklahoma State game his junior year, 1963.

"George Kelly was our defensive line

coach, and when I showed up at practice that day, he asked me where I'd been," Kramer recalls. "I told him I was at the hospital with Sandy. He asked if we'd had our kid, and I said 'yes, a girl.'"

"Then he asked me what we named her. I told him Kelly, and he let me ride on the blocking sled the rest of the afternoon. I don't think big Bob Brown and Lloyd Voss liked that very well."

The family that started with Kelly now includes 17-year-old Tim, Erin, 15, and 12-year-old Kerry.

Tim is a 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior quarterback who has been contacted by Nebraska, "through their normal recruiting procedures," according to his father. He's also a shortstop in baseball.

"He's my only boy," Kramer says, "but all of our children are active in athletics. All participate in high school athletics, and all have had good experiences in sports."

"I like to see Tim work hard to do his best, but I don't think I put any pressure on him to force him to do things I wouldn't expect of other kids. He likes athletics, and he works hard at it."

Much like his dad works hard at his coaching.

"We were 2-8 this past year, but looking forward to better things," Kramer says. "I hope that's the way everybody is looking at things. We've got an opportunity down the line to have a good football program. But the program here has not had success, a winning season, since 1973. It has a ways to go."

Still, Kramer received a vote of confidence from the student body in a recent effort to get more money for athletic scholarships.

"The students here voted in February for a fee increase to allow us additional scholarships," Kramer says. "That's really a boost in the arm. I was at the meeting where it was voted on, and was really pleased to see the results. It says a lot about the students."

Kramer knows, however, he has an uphill struggle ahead, locked in the tough CSIC Conference with Nebraska schools Kearney State and Wayne State, and others from Missouri and Kansas.

"It's a real competitive conference, but I saw Emporia State as an opportunity of something I thought could go nowhere but up," Kramer says. "I hope that's the case. All the situations I've gone into with the exception of McCook have been like that. If you have patience, something good



Kramer, (75) and Lloyd Voss (71) pursue Auburn quarterback Jimmy Sidle in the 1964 Orange Bowl.

will always happen."

What pleases Kramer as much as the potential is the way his family has fit in at Emporia after being solidified by 10 years in Sherman, Texas.

"I was pretty concerned about that," Kramer says. "We'd been at Austin for 10 years, and had some success the last four years we were there. I felt I was leaving the program in better shape than when I got there."

"I felt it was time to look at a move, and hoped the family was still young enough that change wouldn't necessarily hurt a lot. It worked out really well. The family is well-adjusted in Emporia."

And Kramer is well-adjusted in coaching.

"When I first went to Nebraska, I was a business major," Kramer says. "That lasted until my first accounting class. I knew it wasn't right for me, so I switched to physical education. I was a little above average student, but I don't think I really knew I wanted to be a coach until I was out coaching."

"That's where McCook was a really good, positive experience for me. That was really exciting because we had some very good athletes there. Those were real good times, good years and good memories."

Now, Kramer can see himself as nothing but a coach.

"I think I'm destined to be a coach when I'm 42," he says. "They say if you're in it for 10 years, you're in it for life. I guess I'll be a coach for life."

"It's been a lot of fun. There have been a lot of ups and downs. That's part of life. When you're young, you never think about what bad is going to happen in the future. But it does. A lot of good things happen, too. It's been fun coaching. I've really enjoyed it."

There's one aspect of coaching that makes Kramer even happier...watching some of his players follow his footsteps into coaching.

"That happened a lot down in Texas," he says. "Austin College is a good teacher education school as well as a professional school. The school won't let you graduate with a teaching degree without a master's. I've had a lot of players who are doing quite well as coaches now. A remarkable number have left school for coaching jobs. That does make you feel special, even if the coaching was not necessarily because of me."

Whatever mistakes Kramer may have made in the past, he's learned from them all, and found happiness Nebraska fans can be proud of. ♦



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Jeff Smith (28) has some big shoes to fill, but he'll have plenty of help as the Huskers feature a stable full of fleet backs.

By Randy York



The Greatest Show On Turf...

Nebraska Football

Tom Osborne's most
"Nebraskanized" Team is
about to begin "The Year
After."



C lose your eyes and snap the shutter. Open the windows of your mind.

It's Saturday morning, Sept. 8. Wyoming's in town and the Cowboys are only hours from experiencing the greatest show on turf...Nebraska football.

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on green.

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You've heard of America's Team. Well, this is Nebraska's Team. This is Tom Osborne's most heavily-influenced in-state team in his 12 years as Nebraska's head football coach.

No one needs to give a fire-and-brimstone speech to the 1984 Cornhuskers. They know how important their performance is to a state ready to fill up the stadium again. They know that hundreds of thousands of fans who can't watch them in person will be listening on the radio...whether they're selling a car in Omaha or driving a tractor in Hemingford.

From Plattsmouth to Sidney, from Weeping Water to Broken Bow, a whole state waits to see if this is another red-letter team laced together with blue-chip athletes.

You can have "The Day After" in Lawrence, Kan. This is "The Year After" in Lincoln...the year after Turner Gill went to Montreal, Mike Rozier to Pittsburgh, Irving Fryar to Boston, Mark Schellen to New Orleans and Dean Steinkuhler to Houston.

It's like losing a Brinks truck in the middle of the Sandhills. This sounds like a job for Banacek, not Osborne. The investigation is over. The evidence has been gathered. It's time to fill in the blanks and write another million-dollar check.

It's a tribute to the tradition through the years at Nebraska, however, that even this team — this team without those world class athletes — is still picked by almost everyone who is supposed to know about such things to win the Big Eight Conference championship and once again contend for national honors.

The feeling of Nebraska fans and coaches going into the past two seasons was one of "We know how good we are; let's get this show on the road!" The feeling this year is more like "We aren't sure just how good we are, but we know we're going to be good. Let's get this show on the road!"

The Huskers lost all but three starters on offense and a total of 18 lettermen — 12 on offense, five on defense and its kicker. It is doubtful any team in the country could suffer those kind of graduation losses and still be rated as the team to beat in a conference as tough as the Big Eight.

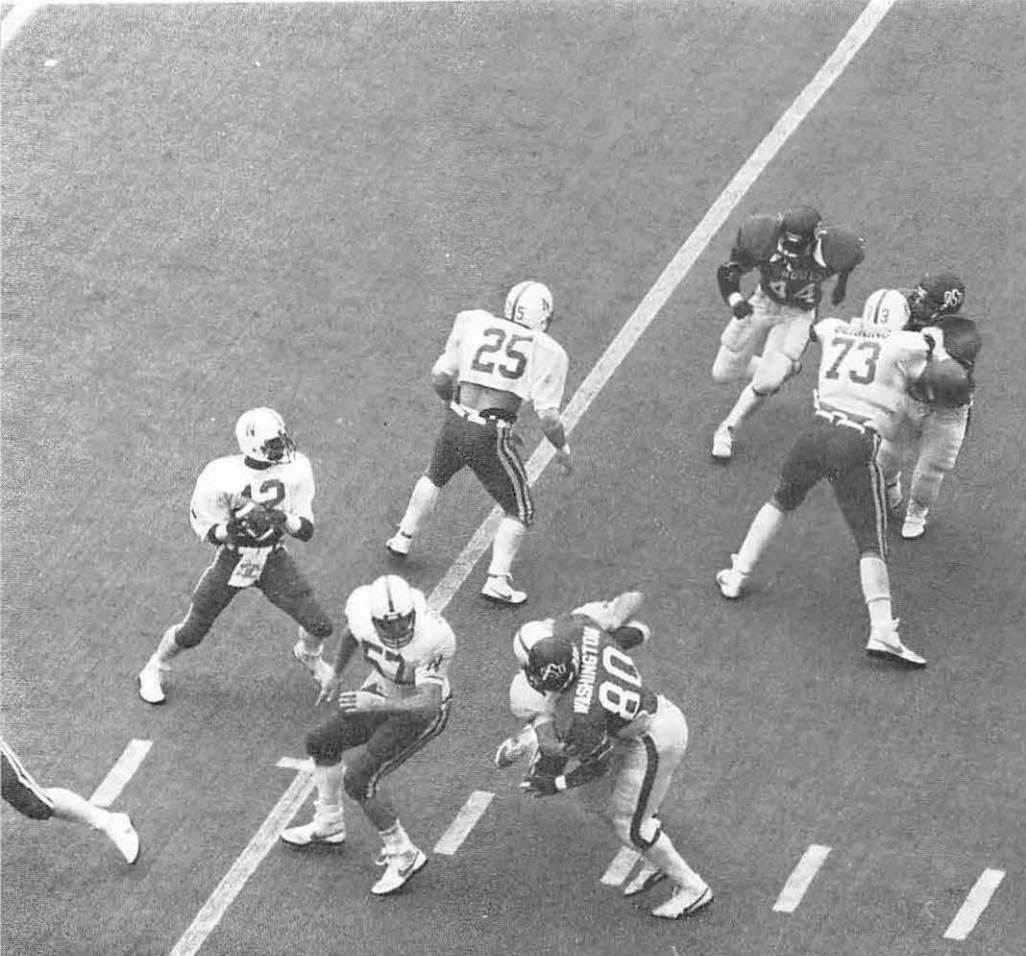
But this is, after all, Nebraska. And those who know such things know that Nebraska has quality waiting to play behind quality that graduates.

This year is no different. The names of Rathman, Sundberg, Smith and Swanson may not bring fear to the hearts of the Big Eight in August...but give 'em time!

To be sure, this will be one of Tom Osborne's greatest challenges. Not only are there a lot of holes to fill, but he and his staff will have to fill them quickly. The Huskers meet four of the five non-conference opponents they faced last season — and all four are expected to be improved. The only non-league foe not repeating is Penn State, which was NU's foe in the Kickoff Classic, a special 12th game for the regular season.

Wyoming will be the opposition in the home and season opener this time around, followed by a home date against Minnesota and new head coach Lou Holtz. Then comes a Sept. 22 road date at UCLA, a team picked by some experts to win the national championship. The Bruins threw a scare into Nebraska last year in Lincoln before succumbing by a 42-10 count. Then they went on to win the Pac-10 title and romp to a Rose Bowl victory over Illinois.

The final non-conference tuneup will come at Syracuse, and even the Orangemen are picked to be much improved this fall.



An aerial view from the '84 OSU game. Gill is gone but Mark Behning (73) returns full strength, blocking passes and leading ball carriers.

The Big Eight, too, will be better balanced, with Oklahoma State and Missouri both pointed to as darkhorse title contenders. Luckily, Nebraska faces those two and annual rival Oklahoma in the friendly confines of Memorial Stadium.

So this Cornhusker squad has its work cut out for it. But members of that squads did not come to Nebraska for an easy time.

This team, of course, is overloaded with native talent. Based on pre-fall projections, 14 home-bred athletes are destined to start for the Cornhuskers against the Cowboys.

They include:

Craig Sundberg, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior quarterback from Lincoln Southeast.

Tom Rathman, a 6-1, 235-pound junior fullback from Grand Island.

Shane Swanson, a 5-9, 200-pound senior wingback from Hershey.

Brian Hiemer, a 6-3, 215-pound senior tight end who lived in tiny Shelby and played for David City Aquinas.

Harry Grimminger, a 6-3, 265-pound senior offensive guard from Grand Island.

Mark Traynowicz, a 6-6, 265-pound senior center from Bellevue West.

Greg Orton, a 6-1, 260-pound senior offensive guard from Nebraska City.

Tom Morrow, a 6-3, 260-pound senior offensive tackle from Lincoln Pius X.

Rob Stuckey, a 6-3, 245-pound senior defensive tackle from Lexington.

Scott Strasburger, a 6-1, 205-pound senior defensive end from Holdrege.

Bill Weber, a 6-2, 210-pound senior defensive end from Lincoln Southeast.

Mark Daum, a 6-3, 235-pound senior linebacker from Dix, a school that plays eight-man football.

Mike McCashland, a 6-1, 200-pound senior monster back from Lincoln East.

Bret Clark, a 6-3, 200-pound senior safety from Nebraska City.

If you're keeping track, that's eight in-state Husker starters on offense and six on defense.

Combined, that 14-man total would make the '84 Huskers the most "Nebraskanized" team in Osborne's tenure as head coach.

Before you jump to any conclusions, bear in mind that the 1983 Nebraska team was not an imported product, even if Gill did come from Fort Worth, Rozier from Camden and Fryar from Mt. Holly, N.J. The Cornhuskers had 13 native starters in the 31-30 Orange Bowl loss to national champion Miami.

If this year's form chart holds up en route to a 16th consecutive appearance in a bowl game, 1984 will surpass 1983 as the team with the most native starters.

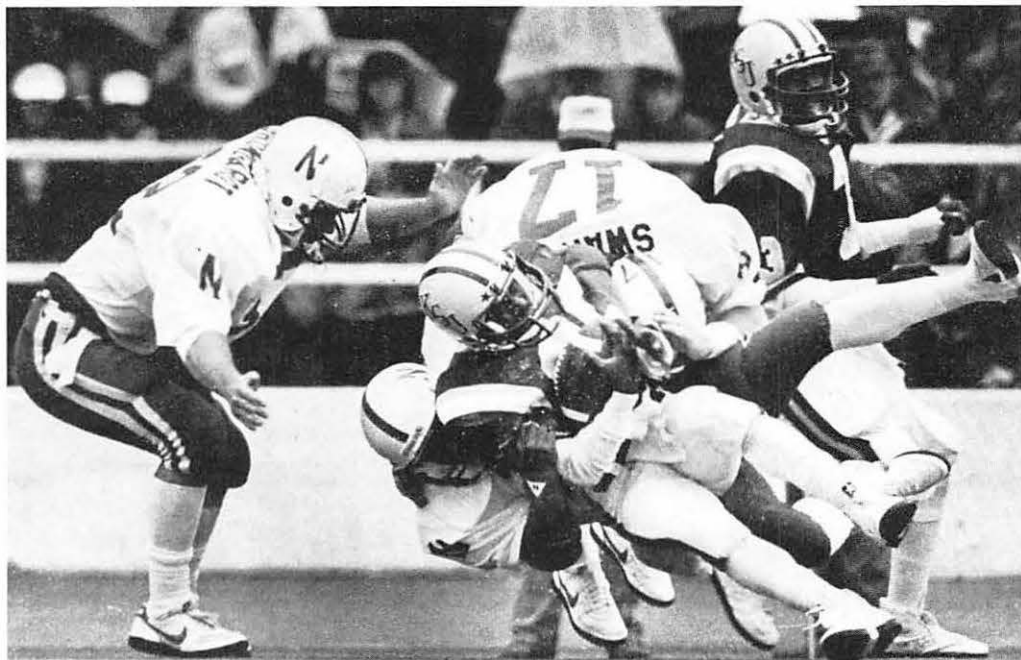
Until last season, the 1975 Huskers had the most Nebraska influence. They had 13 native starters on a team that won 10 straight games before losing to national champion Oklahoma, 17-14, and unbeaten Arizona State, 17-14, in the Fiesta Bowl.

Using lineups from past bowl games for consistency in comparisons, Nebraska falls an average of one starter short of being 50 percent "Nebraskanized."

In the past 11 years, 113 of Nebraska's 242 starters in bowl games have been graduates of Nebraska high schools; 54 on offense and 59 on defense.

Five of Osborne's first 10 Nebraska teams had 10 native starters apiece: the

Shane Swanson (17) has established a name for himself at wingback and for special teams play. Here he bulldozes a Kansas State punt returner.



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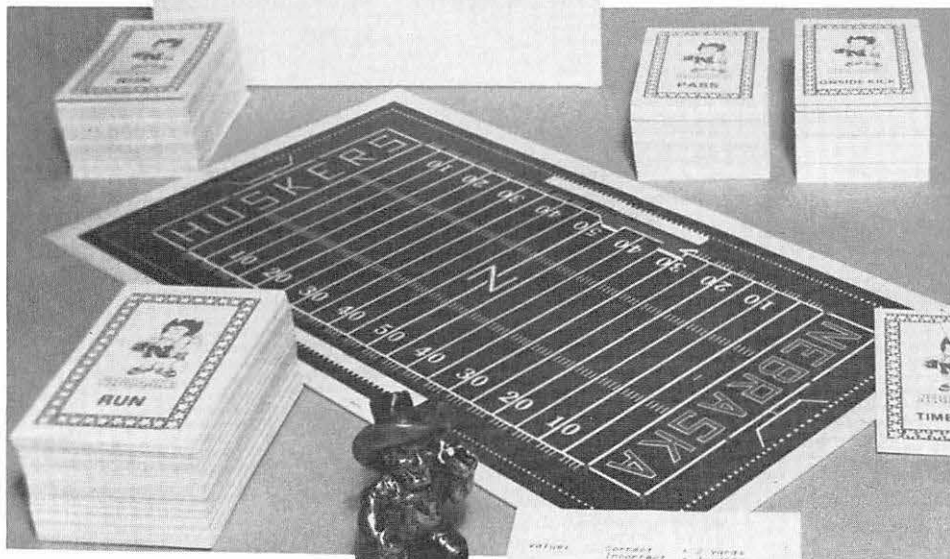
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Todd Fisher (6) joins Bret Clark (10) and Dan Casterline (24) in pulling down a Syracuse running back in last year's contest. All three return for the '84 campaign.

1973 team that went to the Cotton Bowl; the '77 team that played in the Bluebonnet Bowl; the '79 team that played in the Cotton Bowl; the '81 team that lost to Clemson in the Orange Bowl; and, the '82 team that edged LSU in the Orange Bowl.

The 1976 Husker team that rallied to beat Texas Tech in the Bluebonnet Bowl, 27-24, had 11 native starters. The '78 Orange Bowl team and the '80 Sun Bowl team each started nine natives in the bowl game.

The heavy-duty influence of Nebraskans on Nebraska may surprise some

people. But it doesn't surprise Clete Fischer, the Huskers' veteran offensive line coach.

Fischer was a full-time member of the Nebraska staff before Bob Devaney arrived. This fall will mark his 25th year on the Husker staff "and we've never had a scandal," he said. "We've never had anything remotely close to a scandal."

Fischer pointed out that Osborne conducted a study "a few years ago" and discovered that "66 percent of the players we've played over the last 20 years were Nebraska kids."

For a program that many experts consider to be the most consistent college football program in the country, that's an amazing statistic.

It undoubtedly would shock an outsider. "We've always had the Roziers and the Gills," Fischer acknowledged. "But we've also always had the Rimingtons and



the Steinkuhlers. We'd be in trouble without the Nebraska kids. They've always been the backbone of our program."

Clete Fischer thinks he knows the reason why.

"In the Midwest, there's still a lot of pride in your homestate," he said. "The kids grow up wanting to play football and they know they can be proud when they do."

Osborne believes that pride is reflected in the 26-year record of the Nebraska Shrine Bowl. Nebraska's head coach has attended almost every Shrine Bowl game and can't remember seeing a crowd of less than 20,000.

Having donated \$2 million in profits to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled and Burned Children in Minneapolis, Nebraska's Shrine game is one of the most solid and successful high school charity games in the United States.

Even though Nebraska's population has changed little in the past decade, Osborne has seen steady improvement in the level of Nebraska high school football.

"Generally, football is on the upswing," he said. "They've liberalized the amount of summer practice. Coaches are allowed to do so much more. And with the weight programs, the high school programs have gotten better with more dedicated athletes."

In Osborne's mind, Nebraska prep football compares favorably "to other areas except those that have spring football. States like Texas, Alabama and Georgia have about 20 days of spring practice and very accelerated off-season programs."

Nevertheless, Nebraska keeps pace nationally in terms of quality.

"Ohio has more outstanding players because it has 15 million people. California has more outstanding players because it has 20 million people," Osborne said.

"But if you dissect the population, our football is outstanding for 1½ million people," added Osborne. "Per capita, we're right up there near the top of the nation with 15 to 20 major college starters a year."

**NU vs. Syracuse, 1983:
Ex-Husker Dave
Ridder (86) dives at
Scott Schwedes (16)
after teammate Mike
McCashland (2) fell to
the ground.**

Osborne believes he knows why Nebraska defies the mathematical odds and produces so much quality from such small numbers.

"Probably more than most states, our players are willing to make the great sacrifices," he said in late July.

Those extraordinary sacrifices are "an intangible factor" to the success of the program, Osborne said. "It's one of the hallmarks of our program. Generally, it reflects the character of the athlete who comes here. Over and above everything else, it seems like he's willing to work very, very hard."

In a sport like football, hard work are two of the most important words in the vocabulary.

Unlike basketball, "where you have to have the innate skills like height, leaping

ability and shooting touch, you can build yourself into a great football player," Osborne said. "If you do a lot in the weight room and gain a lot of strength, you can develop yourself."

Swanson, the senior wingback who understudied Fryar for two years, is glad Nebraska scours the nation to recruit the blue-chip athletes coveted by other collegiate powers.

But he's also thankful the Huskers do not ignore the home-bred athletes in the process.

"Nebraska has a loyalty to in-state athletes," Swanson said. "They know there are more natural athletes. But the Nebraska kids are still the backbone of the program."

It is something to which Grimminger, the senior offensive guard, points with particular pride.

"I'm really proud of the fact that we have so many starters from Nebraska on this year's team," he said. "You develop a sense of patriotism within your state. I don't think anyone's ever put down football at the high school level in this state. I don't think they ever will."

Even though Grimminger describes this year's unusually high number of in-state starters as "a strange phenomenon," he

said it is still the result of "equal opportunity."

"None of us would be playing if we shouldn't be," Grimminger said. "I really think there might be more a sense of unity because we have so many in-state starters. We all know how important it is to the team and to ourselves."

Emphasizing how proud he was to see 14 native starters this fall, Grimminger said "Nebraska fans should be proud, too. We've always had guys like the Junior Milers, the Mike Roziers and the Irving Fryars. But we've always had the in-state guys, too."

This is not a one-sided crusade. At Nebraska, the out-of-state players have an equal appreciation for the in-state players. They, too, applaud the power base.

"Shoot, Nebraska wouldn't be anything without all these Nebraska kids," offered Fryar, who was the No. 1 overall draft choice in the NFL last spring.

"Nebraska kids grow up, dreaming of playing football at Nebraska and they'll work their tail off to do it," Fryar said.

"Look at guys like Mark Schellen," added Fryar. "If he wasn't a great athlete before he got to Nebraska, he was when he left. Some of those guys are so high on Big Red, they're tripped out. Nebraska foot-

ball means so much to Nebraska guys, they'll play over their heads to get the job done. That's tradition."

That's also pride.

"I never dreamed I'd be playing football for Nebraska someday," admitted Grimminger.

Growing up, "I remember sitting in the stands, watching Johnny Rodgers play. My grandfather was an insurance salesman and got a hold of some tickets. He passed away before I got to play, but I know he'd be proud of how far I've come."

The pride is the symbol of the challenge.

Traynowicz, a strong candidate to win the Outland Award this season, said "it makes me happy to see so many Nebraska players start. I'd just as soon have 'em all be Nebraska boys."

While Traynowicz has developed himself into the player he is today, he credits the system for the encouragement.

"I've been growing up with Nebraska football my whole life," he said. "All I've ever wanted to do was play for Nebraska. In Nebraska, you don't look to pro sports. When you grow up, you want to play for Nebraska. This is a Big Red state."

Even though Traynowicz is looking forward to his third year as a starter, he epitomizes the home-bred athlete.

"I was not a Dave Rimington," he said. "I'm my own kind of player. That's the same way it is with a lot of players on this team."

At Nebraska, patience is the ultimate password, especially in the offensive line where Grimminger and Traynowicz have carved their impressive niche.

"Most of our success in the offensive line has come from Nebraska kids," pointed out Milt Tenopir, the former Nebraska high school coach who now helps Fischer coach the Huskers' offensive line.

"A lot of out-of-state kids with a lot of buildup come in here wanting to play quicker than they're able to play," Tenopir said. "Physically, they can't handle Big Eight football."

Meanwhile, "most of the Nebraska kids are willing and understand how much it takes to build themselves into a physical player," Tenopir said.

"They hang around and have more patience," he explained. "We've been successful enough where we don't have to play a kid before he's ready to play."

"It's not that the out-of-state kids don't have the stick-to-itiveness. They do. But it just means to much to the Nebraska kid. In the offensive line, it seems like we always have six or seven of our top 10 kids from Nebraska."

To Tenopir, it's a sign of stability, character and patience.

"They see the Dave Rimingtons and the Dean Steinkuhlers and it gives them incentive," Tenopir said. "A lot of times, they want to quit and go home. But if they do, they have to go work on the farm."



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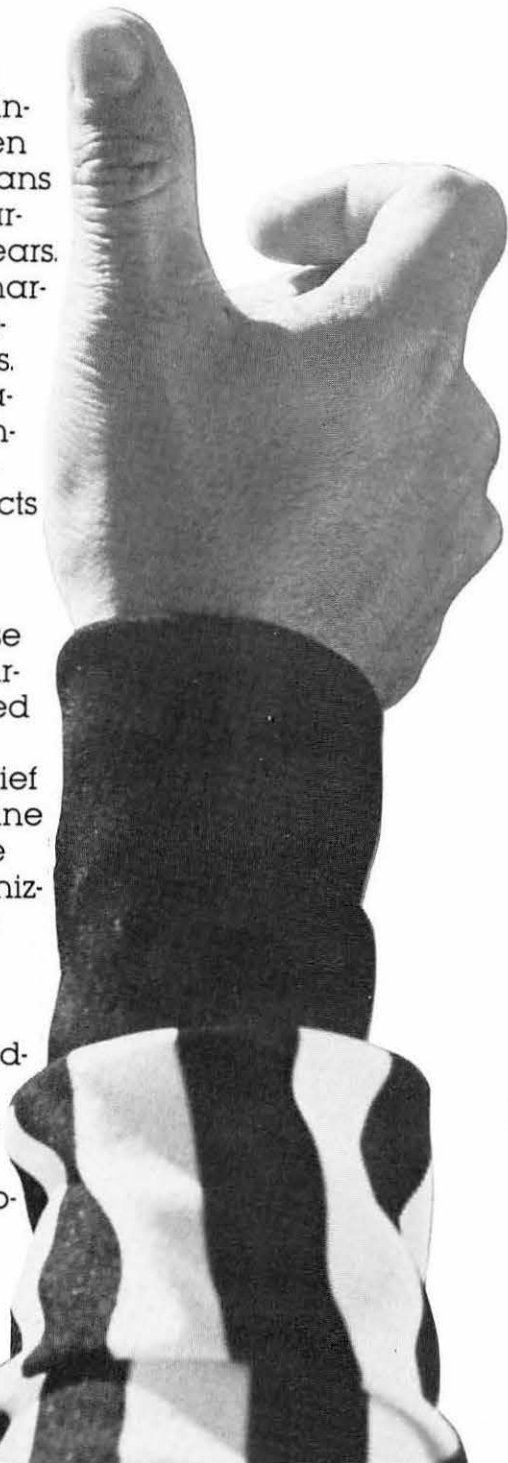
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1984 Husker Roster

Name & Number	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown	Name & Number	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown
Anderson, Paul	FB	5-10	230	So.	Omaha	Mlinar, Jerry	QB	6-1	200	So.	Greeley
Augustyn, Joe	TE	6-2	215	So.	Emporia, KS	Moore, Brian	TE	6-3	220	Jr.	Randolph
Bailey, Dan	OG	6-2	250	So.	Gibbon	Moritz, Mike	C	6-3	230	So.	Osmond
Banderas, Tom (83)	TE	6-2	225	So.	Oak Grove, MO	Morrow, Tom (77)	OT	6-3	260	Sr.	Lincoln
Behning, Mark (73)	OT	6-6	290	Sr.	Denton, TX	Mullins, Marty	SE	5-10	190	So.	Norfolk
Behrens, Vance	WB	5-9	180	So.	East Moline, IL	Munford, Marc (41)	LB	6-2	225	So.	Littleton, CO
Biggers, Kevin (13)	M	5-10	185	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA	Nelson, Ray	WB	5-8	185	So.	Omaha
Blakeman, Clete (16)	QB	6-1	185	Fr.	Norfolk	Nichols, John (55)	C	6-2	260	So.	Littleton, CO
Bourn, Don (92)	TE	6-3	215	Sr.	Ponca	Noel, Jack (56)	C	6-1	235	Jr.	Lincoln
Bryan, Dave	OT	6-1	250	So.	Osceola	Noonan, Danny (97)	DT	6-3	265	So.	Lincoln
Bunger, Jon (97)	DT	6-2	240	Sr.	Hildreth	Olson, Todd (63)	OG	6-4	255	So.	Grand Island
Burke, Dave (33)	CB	5-10	190	Sr.	Layton, UT	Opie, Harlan	DE	6-2	200	So.	Great Bend, KS
Carpenter, Todd	OT	6-5	290	So.	Grand Island	Orton, Greg (67)	OG	6-1	260	Sr.	Nebraska City
Carr, Chris (37)	S	6-1	195	So.	Wellfleet	Otte, Mike	SE	6-1	175	So.	Lincoln
Cartwright, Charlie (31)	M	5-9	195	So.	Olathe, KS	Paige, Woody (9)	CB	5-8	165	Jr.	San Francisco, CA
Casterline, Dan (24)	FB	5-10	200	Jr.	Evergreen, CO	Palmer, Tony	DT	6-7	250	So.	Omaha
Chealey, Gene	CB	5-9	185	So.	Orlando, FL	Parker, Paul	CB	5-11	180	So.	Los Angeles, CA
Clark, Bret (10)	S	6-3	200	Sr.	Nebraska City	Parker, Stan (74)	OG	6-4	240	So.	Bellevue
Clayton, McCathorn	QB	5-11	195	So.	Orlando, FL	Parsons, Kevin (35)	LB	6-2	230	So.	Springfield, MO
Cooper, Mark (54)	C	6-1	230	So.	Lincoln	Pokorny, Brian (18)	CB	5-10	175	Sr.	Bellwood
Daffer, Chad (46)	LB	6-0	230	Jr.	Nebraska City	Porter, Scott (36)	FB	6-0	222	Sr.	Nebraska City
Daum, Mark (51)	LB	6-3	235	Sr.	Dix	Proffitt, Todd (34)	LB	6-0	235	Jr.	Hartford, CT
Demmel, Tom	K	6-1	200	Jr.	Omaha	Rathman, Tom (26)	FB	6-1	235	Jr.	Grand Island
Diaz, Mark	M	6-1	200	So.	Lincoln	Reeves, Gregg (84)	DE	6-3	215	Jr.	Wahoo
Dietz, Dave (98)	TE	6-1	225	Jr.	Lincoln	Reinhardt, John (62)	MG	5-11	240	Sr.	Littleton, CO
Dittmer, Jim (59)	OT	6-3	255	Jr.	Crete	Reynolds, Rod (93)	DT	6-3	235	Jr.	Lexington
Douglas, Don	QB	6-0	175	So.	Butte, MT	Rogers, Phil	MG	6-1	225	Jr.	Tucson, AZ
DuBose, Doug (22)	LB	5-11	185	So.	Uncasville, CT	Roth, Tim (65)	OT	6-0	265	Jr.	Hermosa Beach, CA
Fisher, Todd (6)	M	6-0	185	Jr.	Omaha	Rother, Tim	OT	6-6	250	So.	Bellevue
Forch, Steve (38)	LB	6-1	220	So.	Lincoln	Rozier, Guy (4)	M	5-9	190	Jr.	Camden, NJ
Frain, Todd (80)	TE	6-2	230	Jr.	Treynor, IA	Schaaf, Jim	OG	6-2	255	So.	Superior
Galois, Ron	OG	6-1	225	So.	Lincoln	Schneider, Dave (1)	K	5-7	165	Jr.	Plattsmouth
Gamble, Jason (86)	SE	5-11	175	Fr.	Santa Barbara, CA	Schneider, Gary (3)	DB	5-11	190	Jr.	O'Neill
Gangwish, Paul	DE	6-1	215	Sr.	Shelton	Schnitzler, Craig (13)	K	5-8	215	So.	Battle Creek
Gatson, Pernell	WB	5-10	180	So.	Omaha	Schnitzler, Robb (85)	SE	5-9	170	So.	Battle Creek
Graeber, Ken (52)	MG	6-2	245	Sr.	Minneapolis, MN	Schoettger, Scott	SE	5-7	155	Sr.	Lincoln
Green, Derrick	OT	6-0	260	So.	Los Angeles, CA	Sellentin, Jeff	OG	6-3	235	So.	West Point
Greene, Ricky (5)	CB	5-9	180	Sr.	Seminole, TX	Shaw, Pat	LB	6-1	235	So.	Aurora
Grimminger, Harry (58)	OG	6-3	265	Sr.	Grand Island	Shead, Ken (99)	MG	5-11	235	Jr.	Plano, TX
Haecker, Kelly	CB	5-10	175	So.	Odell	Sheppard, Von (7)	WB	5-9	185	So.	St. Paul, MN
Hall, Mike	TE	6-0	220	So.	Omaha	Siebler, Bryan (19)	S	5-11	190	So.	Fremont
Harris, Neil (11)	CB	6-0	190	Sr.	Kansas City, KS	Skow, Jim (96)	DT	6-3	235	Jr.	Omaha
Hawkins, Hendley	QB	5-10	180	So.	Los Angeles, CA	Smith, Brad (81)	DE	6-3	230	Jr.	Franklin
Hedlund, Mike	FB	5-11	215	So.	O'Neill	Smith, Jeff (28)	IB	5-9	195	Sr.	Wichita, KS
Heibel, Micah	FB	6-1	215	So.	Lincoln	Smith, Rod	SE	6-0	190	So.	Thornton, CO
Hiemer, Brian (94)	TE	6-3	215	Sr.	Shelby	Spachman, Chris (76)	DT	6-4	260	So.	Kansas City, KS
Hill, Scott	DB	5-11	190	So.	Omaha	Storer, Lance	OG	6-2	225	So.	Sutherland
Hoefler, Mike (59)	OG	6-4	225	So.	Norfolk	Strasburger, Matt	S	6-2	190	So.	Holdrege
Holloway, Tony (43)	DE	6-2	195	Jr.	Bellevue	Strasburger, Scott (90)	DE	6-1	205	Sr.	Holdrege
Holscher, Jim	WB	5-9	180	So.	Cook	Stuckey, Rob (75)	DT	6-3	245	Sr.	Lexington
Hoskins, Thurman (32)	IB	5-11	200	So.	Turney, MO	Sundberg, Craig (15)	QB	6-1	190	Sr.	Lincoln
Jamrog, Jeff	DE	6-1	215	So.	Omaha	Swanson, Shane (17)	WB	5-9	200	Sr.	Hershey
Johnson, Brad (64)	OT	6-3	265	So.	Ralston	Taylor, Jeff (12)	QB	6-2	190	So.	Omaha
Jones, Lee (98)	DT	6-0	230	So.	Omaha	Tenopir, Todd	K	5-8	210	So.	Lincoln
Kaelin, Ken (49)	FB	5-10	210	So.	Westerville	Thayer, Dan	S	6-2	190	So.	Grand Island
Kelley, Jon	IB	6-0	200	Fr.	Lincoln	Thomas, Anthony (53)	C	6-2	290	Sr.	San Francisco, CA
Kimball, Scott (88)	SE	6-0	195	Sr.	Camarillo, CA	Thompson, Jim (39)	WB	5-9	190	Sr.	Blair
King, Scott	CB	5-9	175	So.	Stromsburg	Tomjack, Jeff	M	6-0	200	So.	Ewing
Kingston, Bob (37)	IB	5-11	190	Jr.	Fremont	Traynowicz, Mark (57)	C	6-6	265	Sr.	Bellevue
Klein, Dale	K	6-1	190	So.	Seward	Tucker, Scott (89)	DE	6-3	220	Jr.	Lincoln
Knox, Mike (44)	LB	6-2	230	Sr.	Castle Rock, CO	Turner, Travis (14)	QB	6-2	205	Jr.	Scottsbluff
Kreikemeier, Keith	OG	6-0	240	Jr.	West Point	Tyrer, Brad	DE	6-2	210	So.	Kansas City, MO
LeCompte, Butch	OT	6-3	285	So.	Papillion	Vinger, Eric	K	6-1	225	So.	La Crosse, WI
Lewis, Bill (68)	C	6-6	270	Jr.	Sioux City, IA	Wade, Stanley (55)	LB	6-3	205	Jr.	Jersey City, NJ
Lightner, Kevin (66)	OG	6-1	260	Fr.	Hastings	Watkins, Dennis (27)	CB	5-11	180	Jr.	Chicago, IL
Lindstrom, Roger (23)	WB	5-10	195	Jr.	Oakland	Weber, Bill (87)	DE	6-2	210	Sr.	Lincoln
Livingston, Scott (48)	K	6-2	210	Sr.	Lakewood, CA	Weber, Scott	DT	6-2	260	Jr.	Columbus
Macias, Bill (78)	OT	6-4	240	So.	Huntington Beach, CA	Welniak, Doug	LB	5-10	205	So.	Elyria
Maggard, Rob (72)	OT	6-3	265	So.	Olathe, KS	Welter, Tom (69)	OT	6-4	255	So.	Yankton, SD
Mattingly, Tom	S	5-9	175	So.	Grand Island	Whyrick, Doug	C	6-0	250	So.	Harvard
McCashland, Mike (2)	M	6-1	200	Sr.	Lincoln	Wingard, Dan (47)	K	6-1	200	Jr.	Omaha
McCormick, John (61)	OG	6-0	250	So.	Omaha	Yates, Rod (91)	SE	6-0	180	Sr.	Sioux City, IA
McCoy, Dan (40)	LB	5-11	210	Jr.	Omaha	Yost, Scott	SE	5-11	165	So.	Grand Island
Miles, Paul (21)	IB	5-10	200	Jr.	Princeton, NJ	Zierke, Mike (78)	DT	6-3	240	Sr.	Pierce

And everyone knows that work on the farm is even harder than all that work inside Memorial Stadium.

Osborne feels as comfortable as possible about his Memorial Stadium dates that open the season. But he knows the next two weeks on the road will be a demanding test of his green football team.

In fact, he readily admits the non-conference tuneup the Huskers face may be just the challenge the Huskers need for a Big Eight schedule that opens with Oklahoma State and Missouri — two teams picked by some to make it to the top this fall.

"Wyoming is rated by some to be as high as No. 2 in their conference behind BYU," said Osborne as he analyzed his schedule. "They have kind of a mixed bag like we do, but a fair number of starters returning. And Minnesota, with Lou Holtz, I think has been rejuvenated a bit in terms of enthusiasm.

"And then I think we get into the very toughest part of our schedule, going to UCLA and then to Syracuse. I think most everybody realizes UCLA will be a great football team. Syracuse is probably underrated by a lot of Nebraska fans. They saw us beat Syracuse badly here, but they (the Orangemen) did end up with a 6 and 5 season and beat West Virginia and Boston

College toward the end of the season. And they have most all of their people back. So they should be a good football team, and we have to play them up there.

"Then we play Oklahoma State and Missouri back-to-back. So we have four really tough games right in a row, and I do believe the Big Eight will be about as balanced a league as we've seen in a long time. It seems like most people feel that Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Missouri and Nebraska could finish in almost any order. And I'm sure that one or two of those other teams will have a chance to jump up in there and be very respectable, too."

Even though the Huskers face OSU and Missouri in Lincoln, it will still be a tough way to break a team so full of inexperienced players into a conference that gave Osborne and his staff plenty of nervous moments a year ago — and every year, for that matter.

There are two schools of thought on the non-conference scheduling before Nebraska gets into the Big Eight wars: some would prefer easier competition, giving the coaching staff an opportunity to play everyone and see what they can do, with less chance of damaging confidence or physical health.

But Tom doesn't see it that way.

"I think it's important that we be extended. If you go into those first two conference games (and remember how tough OSU and Mizzou played the Huskers last fall) and you really haven't played a tough team, it's going to be tougher for you to adjust. I think UCLA and Syracuse — and possibly even Wyoming and Minnesota — will extend us to the point that we'll know what we can do."

Osborne made those comments his first day back in the office after a much needed vacation. He hadn't had a lot of time to think about that season opener with Wyoming. But it's hard not to think football in Nebraska.

"The first game is always the most unpredictable, so you get a little more excited over it. I still do. In our case, we're usually going out there with about 50 percent of our starters never having started before, so you don't know what to look for. And that first game is always a lot different from practice.

"I get excited, but not to the point that I can't think. We're looking forward to the new season. But I hear the fans talking about how they can hardly wait back in March and April and May. And, frankly, I can wait.

"But when it's time to go, we'll be ready to go." ♦



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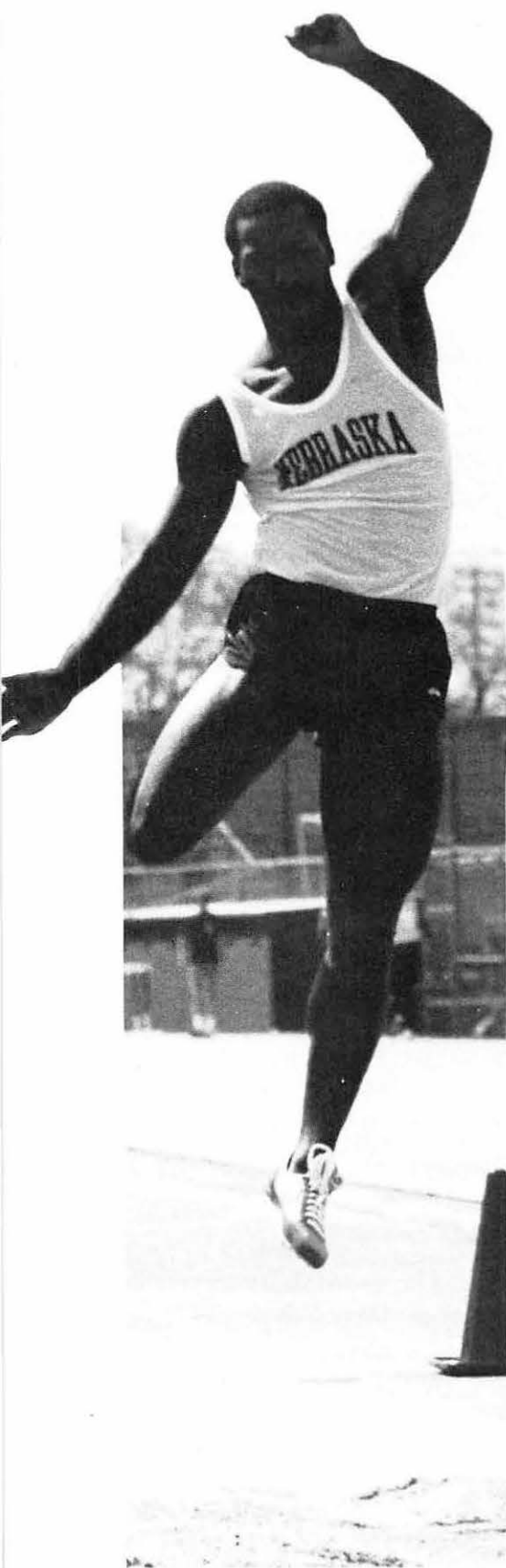
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By Mike Babcock



Sheppard plits his Time between Track and football

It's a long jump from high school to college.

That's why Von Sheppard's first priority last spring was his school work, and his second concern was being ready, both physically and emotionally, for the beginning of spring football practice. Track and field was more of a diversion than a commitment.

That's what made his accomplishments so remarkable.

The first time Sheppard long jumped, in the opening meet of Nebraska's indoor season, he leapt 23-11 to win the event. The Cornhusker freshman from St. Paul, Minn., did so with only two days of practice.

He had not long jumped in competition since he won the title at the Minnesota high school championships the previous spring. Despite being ill before that meet, Sheppard jumped 23-7 in the state finals.

Sheppard is an outstanding athlete, whose primary interest is becoming an outstanding wingback on the Nebraska football team.

According to Gene Huey, who coaches the Cornhusker wingbacks, tight ends and wide receivers, "Von can be the kind of athlete that Irving Fryar was if he'll work as hard as Irving did and as hard as Shane Swanson works now."

That's high praise, particularly for someone only a year out of high school. Swanson, a two-year letterman, has stepped into the Husker starting lineup for Fryar, who was a first-round draft pick of the National Football League New England Patriots.

"Von has the physical skills you're looking for," said Huey, a former wingback. "How it unfolds, though, I don't know."

Sheppard made a significant contribution to Nebraska's undefeated junior varsity football team last fall, leading the young Cornhuskers in pass receiving, with 11 catches for 159 yards, and punt returns, with 10 for 215 yards. He scored four touchdowns and rushed for 72 yards in six carries.

Those statistics are no more surprising than his success in the long jump. Sheppard was an All-American at St. Paul Central High School as a running back. His senior year, he rushed for 1,250 yards and returned kicks for another 847 yards.

That he came to Nebraska as a tailback, however, created some problems for Sheppard during the fall. Making the transition to wingback wasn't easy. It was, in fact, a painful process.

The Cornhuskers originally recruited him as a tailback, but that changed before he signed a letter of intent. "I didn't like it at first," Sheppard said. By the first junior varsity game last fall, however, he had decided wingback was "the position I should've been playing in high school, too."

He quickly accepted the unfamiliar position, but mastering its skills took much longer. Blocking is an integral part of being a wingback at Nebraska, and "when I first came in, I couldn't block worth anything. That's the only thing I was worried about," said Sheppard, 5-foot-9 and 183 pounds.

His concern was not misplaced.

"Even though a wingback might line up as a running back, which he supposedly is sometimes, he's got to be able to block, know which guy to block, run pass patterns, and know what to do in six or seven

different formations," Huey said.

"You've definitely got to make some big transitions, going from I-back to wingback."

During the season, Huey brought up Sheppard and freshman wide receiver Rod Smith to practice with the varsity, both to give them a feel for what it's like and "to try to save the legs of the older guys."

Huey wasn't surprised by what he saw from Sheppard. "You figure, being a running back in high school, Von hadn't blocked much. He probably always had a fullback as an escort.

"Von was a very fine runner, and it wasn't that he didn't want to block; he just didn't know how to block. He didn't have the proper techniques."

What little blocking Sheppard had done in high school was different from that required of a wingback. "It's a little different coming out of the backfield as a running back," said Huey. "As a wingback, Von had 225-pound defensive ends teeing off on him, and he was awkward, very awkward."

According to Sheppard, "they were

230-pound ends and linebackers built like Hulk Hogan."

Sheppard also lacked an awareness of the intensity required of an athlete competing at the major college level. "Full speed" can be a relative description. What was sufficient to succeed as a junior varsity player wasn't good enough when he practiced with the varsity.

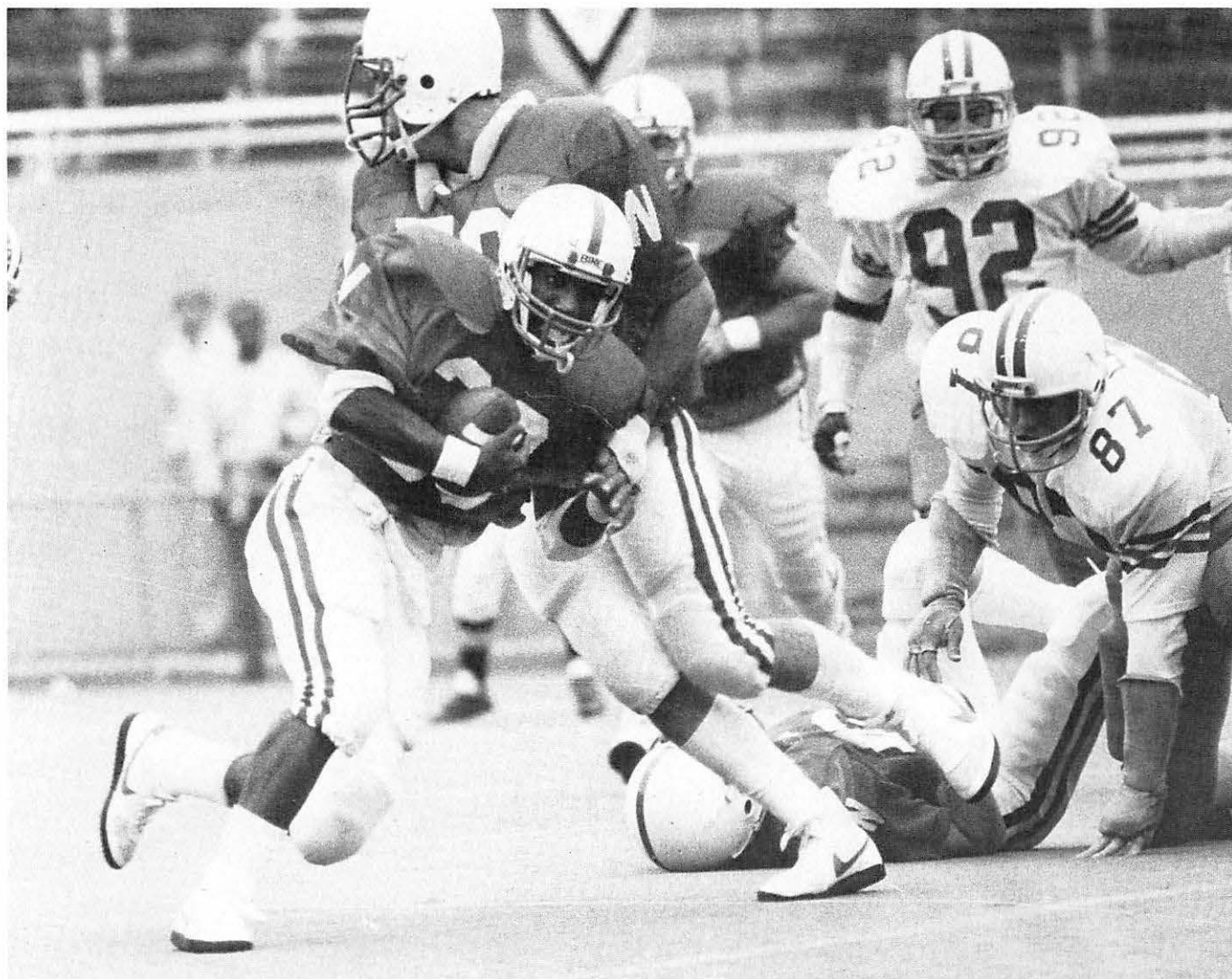
As a result, Sheppard thought he was doing better than Huey did.

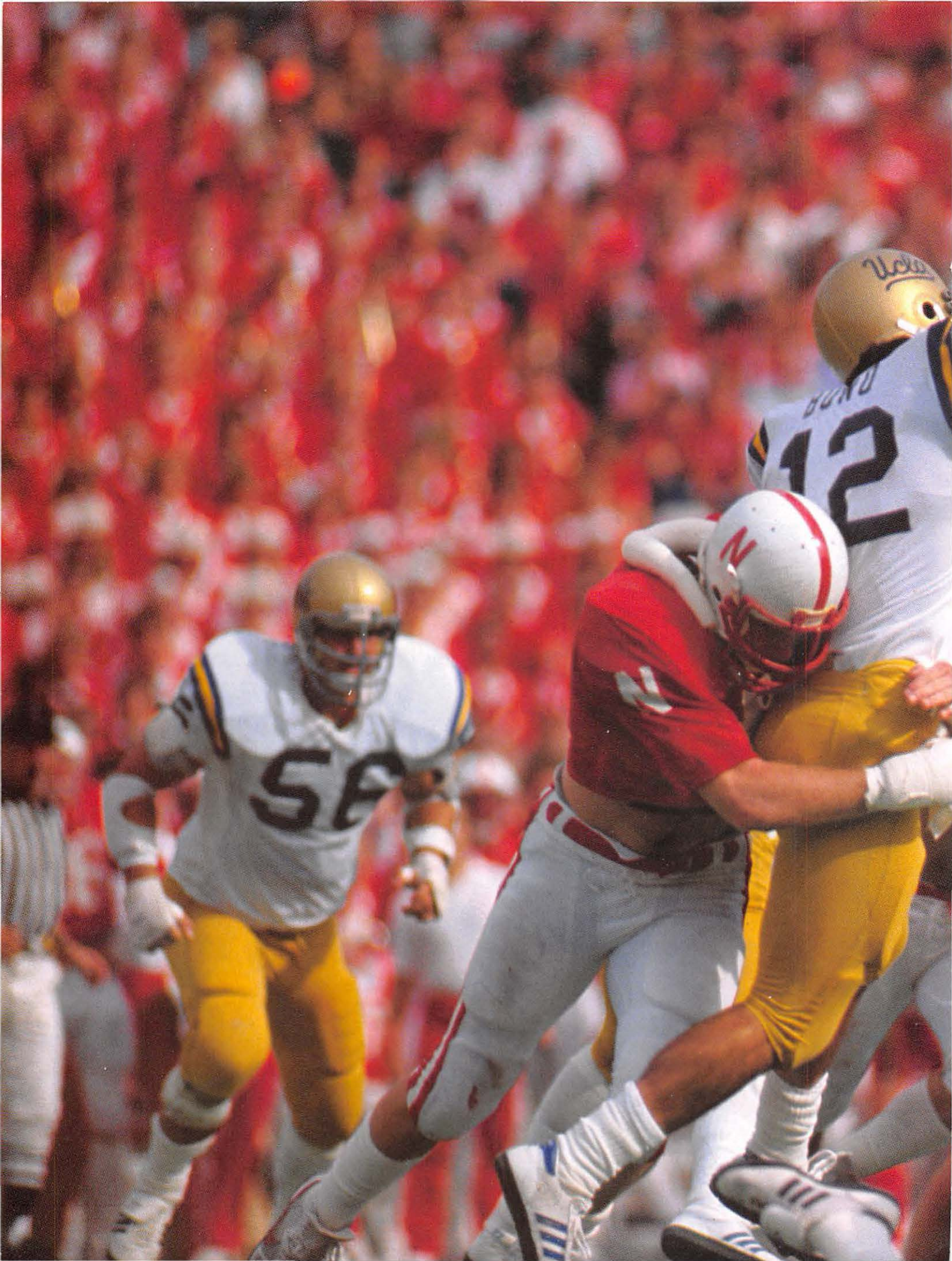
"Von didn't know what the tempo needed to be at the varsity level, even to practice," Huey said.

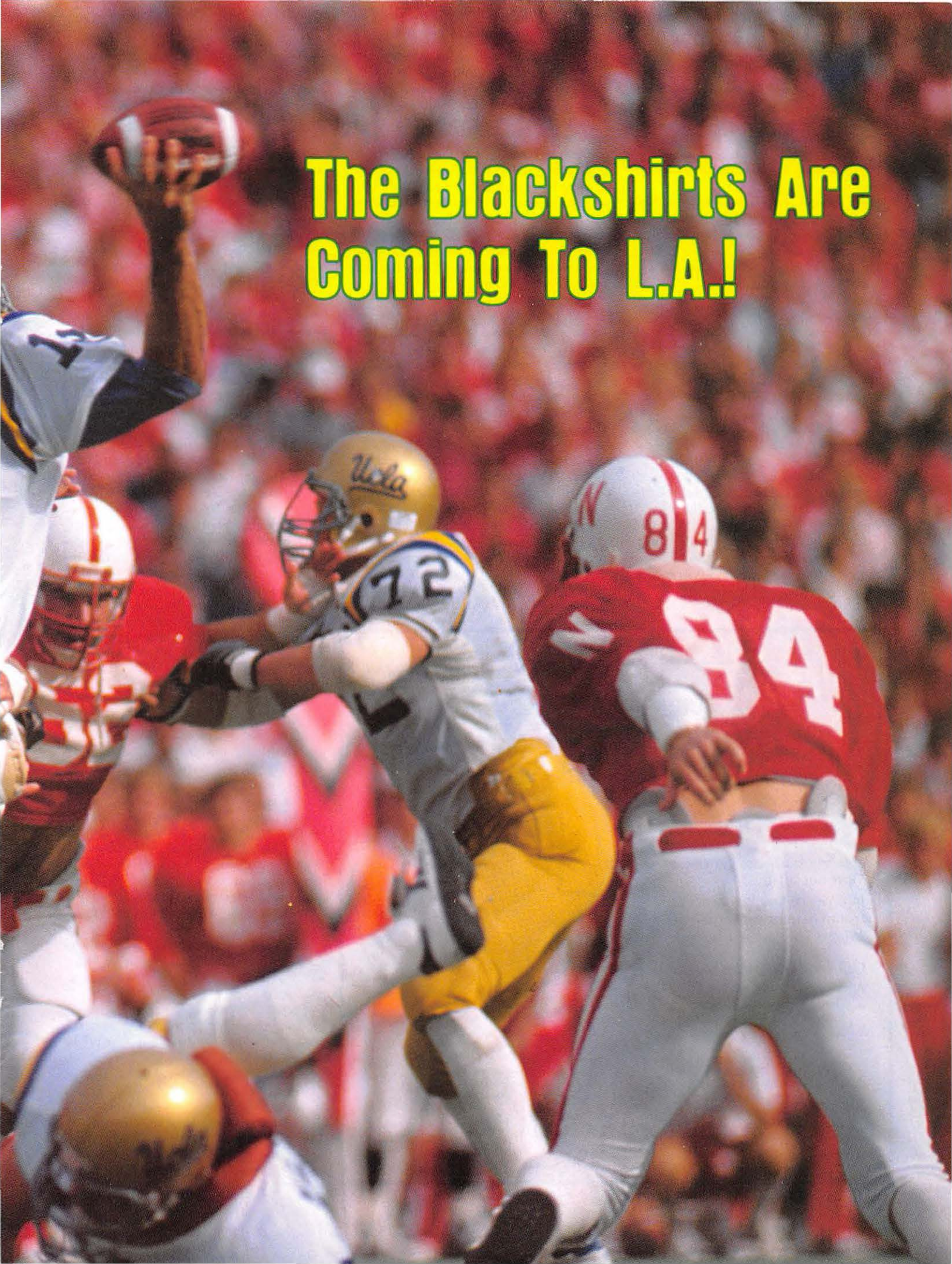
"He was always looking at me out of the corner of his eye. That first week or so, I was trying to point out to him that he wasn't doing things at the pace I wanted. But through meetings and watching films, he and Rod Smith both got an idea of what the tempo had to be."

That's when the progress began.

Von Sheppard takes off on a wingback reverse during a Nebraska junior varsity victory last fall.







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"Von started getting better," said Huey. "You can see a guy has the athletic ability, and you can shape and hone it. You want to help him and show him you want things done in a certain way, but sometimes it's difficult for the younger players to understand what you're trying to get across."

"It took Von time to realize some of those things."

Even though Sheppard came to understand what was expected of him on the football field, he still had to translate that awareness into action.

He didn't know the meaning of success until spring practice. That's why he trained so hard in preparation for his first spring at Nebraska.

Still, Sheppard wanted to give track and field a try. "A lot of people think I came out for track to get out of winter conditioning," Sheppard said after a track workout in the Devaney Sports Center one afternoon.

"But track's not easy. We do a lot of sprints and strides. It can be pretty deadly."

Steve Rainbolt, an NU track and field assistant, convinced Sheppard to give the long jump a try. "He kept calling me," Sheppard said.

"Because of football, I didn't know how to react, so I called and asked Coach (Tom) Osborne before the Orange Bowl, and he

told me it would be okay."

Osborne's only stipulation was that Sheppard keep up with his studies, something to which Sheppard readily agreed. "I want to maintain my grades this semester," he said.

Sheppard earned high school All-American recognition in track and field as well as football in St. Paul. Despite his height, he high jumped 6-7. His best time in the 100 meters was :10.8, and he ran a :22.0 in the 200 meters.

The event in which he excelled, however, was the long jump. "I love the long jump," Sheppard said.

As a high school junior, he long jumped 24-9½, a state record which ranked him second in the country among high school athletes. Sheppard once jumped 25-2 in practice, a mark equal to Ron Child's Nebraska indoor record.

With practice and some coaching from Rainbolt, who once had aspirations of becoming an Olympic decathlete, "I can go 25," said Sheppard.

His statement was prophetic. At the Big Eight Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Lincoln, Sheppard long jumped 25-5¼ to finish third. He also finished third at the conference indoor meet, with a 24-4½ leap.

Not bad for a long-jumping football player.

During the indoor season, he practiced the long jump on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and attended winter conditioning class, like most of his football teammates, on Mondays and Thursdays. His weeks were full.

Sheppard went home for semester break and returned two or three pounds heavier and a step slower in the 40-yard dash. After a week and a half of track practice, however, he was back down to his playing weight 183 pounds.

The first time he was clocked in the 40-yard dash, during pre-fall testing, he weighed 179 pounds and ran :04.66, measured electronically, one of the fastest times among those of Nebraska's incoming freshman football players. Adjusted to a more conventional hand time, that's :04.46.

Following the holidays, Sheppard ran :04.74, still good speed for a wingback. "He doesn't have that tremendous speed Irving Fryar has, but Von's definitely got the talent to make wingback a good position for us in the years to come," Huey said. "He's tenacious and aggressive."

His tenacity served Sheppard well during spring drills. Based on his performance then, he entered fall camp as a good candidate to make Nebraska's varsity travel roster this season. Barring something unforeseen, he won't be redshirted.

Swanson, of course, is the Cornhuskers' No. 1 wingback, followed by Jim Thompson and Roger Lindstrom, both of whom "have been around for some time and are about equal in ability," Huey said. The competition between those two will depend on "who gets up on the right side of the bed."

Though nothing is certain, Huey expects to take Swanson, either Thompson or Lindstrom, and Sheppard on the road this fall. "We're trying to get the best people on the field," he said.

"I'd like to be able to travel with Sheppard, but there are other people at that position who can enter into the picture, too."

Redshirted sophomore Pernell Gatson, who has made the transition to wingback from quarterback, is one of the more prominent among those people.

"I don't know how it'll unfold," Huey said.

Sheppard's versatility, being able to return punts and kickoffs, is another factor in his favor. "He has the things we're looking for."

Sheppard went into the spring with the muscle of winter conditioning and the timing of a long jumper. "I'm ready," he said.

He was a man of action as well as words. "He'd come up to me in the spring and say, 'I'm blocking better now,'" Huey said. "He was catching the ball better, too. Von improved in both areas."

During one spring scrimmage, Huey inserted Sheppard and split end Jason Gam-

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The Educated Man



In his book, *John Henry*, Cardinal Newman describes "The Educated Man" as one who can be "at home in every society."

Dr. Ursula Walsh, Nebraska's academic counselor, has a candidate for "The Educated Man" on the 1984 Husker football team.

"I think Rob Stuckey already shows that mark of 'The Educated Man,'" Walsh said. "I believe he would find intellectual and personal interests just about anywhere he'd be. There's something about being spiritually at home and Rob has that quality. He creates an aura that can deal with almost anything."

Rob Stuckey, Nebraska's Academic All-American defensive tackle, is the Husker version of "A Gentleman and a Scholar."

Shortly after his final season in a Husker uniform, he will check in his shoulder pads and report for work in a Boston bank.

In September of 1986, he will begin classes at Harvard Business School, the most prestigious business school in the country.

Stuckey, son of the president of the Lexington (Neb.) State Bank, will wear the grey pin-striped suit and read the *Wall Street Journal*.

But he's already buried his stereotype of a school that caters to the Kennedys and the offspring of corporate giants.

"It sounded a little snobbish to me at first. Even now it does," he said. "But it's something I've always wanted to achieve. It's like playing football at Nebraska. You want to go for the best, the most demanding and intense program in the country."

To Stuckey, who will play this fall as a

Stuckey and staunch admirer, Academic Counselor Ursula Walsh, review the *Wall Street Journal*. She was the first to know after his family that he had been accepted to Harvard Business School.

Academic All-American defensive tackle, Rob Stuckey, will give up playbook for The Wall Street Journal and begin studies at Harvard.

By Mike Babcock

graduate student, being accepted at Harvard "is more thrilling than getting drafted in the first round. To me, this is the ultimate. I'm no longer up in the air about pro football. With an opportunity like this, pro football is kind of inferior to my plans."

It should be. Stuckey had to buck the same kind of odds at Harvard as he would to play pro football.

"It's my understanding that HBS (Harvard Business) School gets 50,000 inquiries a year and 8,000 applications. But they can only accept 780," offered Stuckey.

Working two years, then enrolling is standard operating procedure at HBS. "I've been told they only take three percent straight out of college," Stuckey said. "They defer the rest."

A deferral fits Rob Stuckey's personality. Even though he was overjoyed with his Harvard acceptance, the news traveled about as fast as the Pony Express in Oregon Trail days.

If Walsh hadn't been the leak in late June, Stuckey's family and closest friends would still be the only people with such privileged information.

Walsh was the first outside the family to hear the news. "She gave me the encouragement to apply to Harvard," Stuckey said. "When I was accepted, she was excited. She was almost even emotional about it."

"Almost emotional?" asked Walsh. "It brought tears to my eyes right away."

For Walsh, that's cutting through a rather thick barrier.

"I'm generally a very cold person and not moved by anything," she admitted. "But when Rob told me in his own understated way, my hands flew open and I got a tear up."

Walsh remembers "Rob smiling that wonderfully rewarding smile of his" when she reminded him how "absolutely wonderful" the news really was.

"Being accepted at Harvard is magic, just magic," she said. "Imagine the doors it will open."

The excitement and the pride is matched only by Walsh's confidence in how Stuckey

will handle it all.

"Rob has good, solid family values," she said. "He won't neglect anything. He'll combine his family life with his conservatism. He won't compromise anything."

Stuckey, who will be starting his third season in Nebraska's defensive line, has a reputation among coaches, teammates, family and friends for being a proverbial Rock of Gibraltar.

That's why Walsh believes he fits "The Educated Man" so perfectly.

"Rob is very dear to me, but certainly not because I've spent a lot of time with him," Walsh said. "I know a lot of players a lot better than I know Rob. But there's no one I appreciate more for what he is and what he stands for."

The thought strikes Ursula Walsh that Rob Stuckey is sort of a young Tom Osborne.

"Maybe that's it. There's something about a person who acts on principle," she said. "He's all in one piece. No one could be less abrasive. He's always getting everything done in a very quiet and a very unobtrusive fashion."

Stuckey's closest friends on the team unanimously second that statement.

"Rob's a determined young fella, but he's never really had a lot to say," offered Ken Graeber, Nebraska's starting middle guard.

"When I first got to Lincoln, I didn't know if I liked Rob," Graeber admitted. "I didn't know if he was conceited or what. He wouldn't talk to me. I'd say 'hi' and he'd just nod his head. But that's just the way he is."

Four years of friendship has shown Graeber that "Rob will never be one to talk your ear off in any circumstance."

But it's hardly a matter of conceit and detachment. According to Graeber, it's a simple matter of a low profile combined with a little bit of shyness.

Graeber was the first friend to hear the news about Harvard Business School. He remembers the conversation going something like this:

"Hey, Graeber, I sent a letter to Harvard and...and they accepted me."

"I know Rob was excited, but he barely creased a smile," Graeber said. "We were lifting weights the day he told me, but he didn't want me to tell anybody."

Graeber exercised his own veto power and told Mark Traynowicz, a mutually-close friend with an equally low-key profile.

"Graeber told me, but he said to act surprised if Rob told me," Traynowicz explained.

The next day, Traynowicz put the secret to a test.

"So Rob, what's new?" he asked.

"Ah, nothing," Stuckey replied.

Five minutes later, Graeber pulled on the same line.

"Hey Rob," he said. "What's new?"

Stuckey looked at him.

"I heard you got accepted to Harvard," Traynowicz said. "Here you get the biggest thing in your life and you won't even tell one of your best friends."

Stuckey was more embarrassed than offended. "Yeah. Who told you?" he asked.

"Rob would have told me sooner or later," Traynowicz said. "He's just so shy."

That shyness makes him a somewhat vulnerable target.

"We don't let him get too uppity," Traynowicz said. "He enjoys it when we cut him down."

About a week after the Harvard word was out, Stuckey visited Traynowicz in his apartment.

"I had a pitcher of lemonade in the refrigerator and he asked if he could have some," related Traynowicz.

"It was about a third full and he tipped it all the way upside down. It all dribbled out from the side."

Traynowicz couldn't resist the temptation. "So you want to come over and spill lemonade all over the place," he said. "Is that what Harvard guys do?"

The ribbing isn't new. Last season, when Stuckey pulled a business magazine out of his travel bag to read on a flight back from Minnesota, Graeber and linebacker Mark Daum coined a new phrase "Business Boy."

"It's all just kidding around," Daum



No, it's not a ballet movement; Rob Stuckey (75) sends UCLA quarterback Rick Neuheisel looking for another way out of an uncomfortable situation in the '83 contest.

said. "One day, this summer, I started talking about some stocks and bonds and Rob was curious."

"You mean you read the *Wall Street Journal*?" Stuckey asked Daum.

"Naw," Daum said. "I'm just talking off the top of my head. You're the Wall Street Conehead."

It is a title Stuckey wears with affection.

Even though he's an inveterate reader of the *Wall Street Journal*, Stuckey will never fit the snobbish stereotype of a high-class businessman.

"I hang around with Graeber and Traynowicz and (Harry) Grimmering," Stuckey said. "They'll keep you down-to-earth."

Grimmering laughs at the line. "It seems like ever since I've known Rob, we've given him some flack," he said. "But he's mellowed out. Even though our personalities are diversified, we have a lot of the same qualities. We all value hard work. It's hard to pinpoint why we're friends. I guess we just all respect each other."

Stuckey gets as many A's from his friends as he does in his finance classes.

"There's just something about Rob Stuckey," Daum said. "When he's going to do something, he does it. He does his homework every night. He's always way ahead of his assignments."

According to Grimmering, "it's a cliché, but Rob gives 110 percent to everything he does. It's all dedication."

"A lot of guys on the team might think Rob's boring and doesn't do anything," offered Graeber. "They see his life as going to class, going to practice, then going home and reading his book."

The perception does not match the reality.

"Rob will crawl around and look for something to do," Graeber said. "He enjoys fishing and getting in the mud just like the rest of us. He just never makes a public figure of himself."

Graeber thinks about it some more and delivers the ultimate tribute. "I've known this kid four years now," he said. "Harry and Traynowicz and me....we've all done some stupid things. But in the four years I've known Rob, he's never done anything stupid. He has fun and does fun things. But he never does anything stupid, never. Maybe he just has more couth."

Maybe it all goes back to the "being

spiritually at home" and "The Educated Man."

"The major task of adolescence is establishing a hierarchy of values and Rob obviously established his early," offered Dr. Walsh. "Even his external behavior mirrors his discipline."

Walsh sees Stuckey as "having a keen mind, good insight and being a problem-solver. It's his time management, his discipline. It has to come from his home."

It does. Rob's older brother, Mike, taught him his most valuable lesson at Nebraska.

The making of Rob Stuckey, the star being born at defensive tackle, just began last season. But the making of Rob Stuckey, the serious student, started four years ago.

Mike gets most of the credit. After a knee injury ended his own Nebraska football career before it ever really got started, Mike made sure Rob knew what was important.

"When I first came here as a freshman, I just wanted to play football. That's all I thought about," Rob recalled.

After one week of classes, Mike could sense an unbalanced approach.

"He got me off in a corner and screwed my head on right off the bat," Rob said. "He told me I couldn't spend a year screw-

ing around. He told me I had to start my college career with a little organization. He told me where the real world was at."

And it wasn't necessarily inside the walls of Memorial Stadium. It was inside the classroom surrounding Memorial Stadium.

That's when Rob Stuckey made his textbook the king over his playbook. That's when he decided he would just as soon bag an "A" as sack a quarterback.

Fortunately, Rob did both. Last fall, he was the only Husker football player elected into the newest chapter of Mortar Board, the national honorary society based on standards of scholarship and leadership.

His 3.833 grade-point-average made him Nebraska's 27th Academic All-American following a season in which he led all Husker defensive linemen with 46 tackles, including 26 solos.

Because of injuries, "Rob played more football than any defensive tackle than we've had in a few years," pointed out NU Coach Tom Osborne. "Rob's been an awfully hard worker since he was in high school. He's serious about his grades and serious about football. I think he's had the same job at the bank every summer since he's been here."

Stuckey works in the credit analysis department of Lincoln's First National Bank.

He hopes his own work habits reflect those of his father, Harold.

"I think I've always been pretty much low key," Rob said. "I don't like to get too worked up over anything. I get that from my dad. My mom influenced me in school. She had the impact on the motivation."

Rob's on-the-field tenacity belies his off-the-field demeanor.

"I guess I'm kind of a Danny Ainge," he said. "I don't slight myself, but I don't really consider myself an athlete. I just try to be one of the blue-collar guys — unselfish and play hard. You don't have to be a glamour boy...just a tough, hard-nosed player who knows what it takes to win."

Charlie McBride, Nebraska's defensive line coach and defensive coordinator, thinks it's no coincidence that Stuckey's best games last year came against the best teams Penn State, UCLA, Missouri and Oklahoma.

"Missouri was probably my best game and Oklahoma was probably my toughest game because I was sick," said Stuckey, who was battling a migraine headache.

The problem started when he was knocked out and suffered a mild concussion against Iowa State. A CAT scan proved negative.

"I don't know what causes the migraines," Stuckey said. "I think I get 'em from contact. Each person's is triggered differently. I don't get 'em during the off-season. It's something that comes and goes. They've never kept me out of a

game. I had a headache the day before the Oklahoma game. I wasn't feeling that good, but I was able to play the whole game."

Stuckey is crossing his fingers for a healthier senior season. In a self-deprecating way, he's had enough injuries.

Two years ago, a torn knee ligament didn't require surgery. "But it might have slowed me down," he said. "I've probably gone from about :04.7 to 5-flat."

His bench press also has decreased from 365 to 340. "I'm not one of Boyd Epley's best examples," Stuckey said. "He probably wants to put me in a closet and not talk about me."

Whatever the 6-foot-3, 250-pound Stuckey lacks in strength and speed, he makes up for in toughness and intelligence.

To Stuckey, organization on the field resembles organization in the classroom.

"It's true," he said. "You're always going to play like you practice. If you're going to play like winners, you have to practice like winners. Everything you do falls back on your instincts and your preparation."

Rob Stuckey, the football star, learned that from Rob Stuckey, the star student.

"I guess one reason why I'm so thrilled about Rob going to Harvard is I know how much he appreciates the opportunity and how much he'll seize it," said Walsh. "I don't think Rob thought it was a very strong possibility that he'd get accepted."

He applied for graduate work at four universities, Harvard, Northwestern, Michigan and Indiana. He was accepted everywhere except Northwestern, where his brother, Mike, is a graduate student in

finance.

"Northwestern turned Rob down before Harvard accepted him," Walsh said. "It amazed us both. When that happened, our hopes were diminished."

The emotional explosion caused by Harvard was understandable. It released all the silent respect Walsh had harbored for four years.

"Rob was one of the quietest recruits I have ever visited with," she recalled. "I asked him if he was that disinterested and he said he was just scared to death."

According to Walsh, Stuckey has "always been hesitant to put himself forward."

But he still "had it together right away. He's extraordinarily mature and in many ways, self-assured. He has an uncanny way of how things operate. I'd like to say he didn't know how to read or write when I met him. But he's managed himself. To finish in four years with a 3.8 average is a rare, rare achievement."

Graeber shares that opinion. "It would be rare for any player," he said. "But for a three-year starter, it's doubly amazing. I know there are a lot of 4.0 students out there. But I don't think any could have done what Rob did."

Stuckey insists he did it with a strict mental discipline that mixed business with pleasure.

I just think you have to go to class and study," he said. "But I also think you can study too much. It's important to relax and enjoy yourself. I had a policy. I never studied on Friday or Saturday. I don't think I ever have."

Stuckey credits Robin Grieves, one of his finance professors, for the tip. "He said

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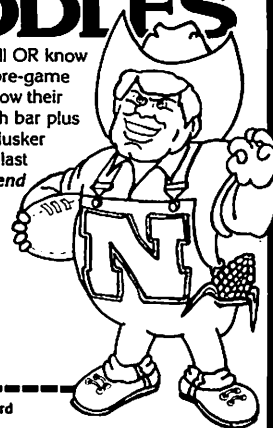
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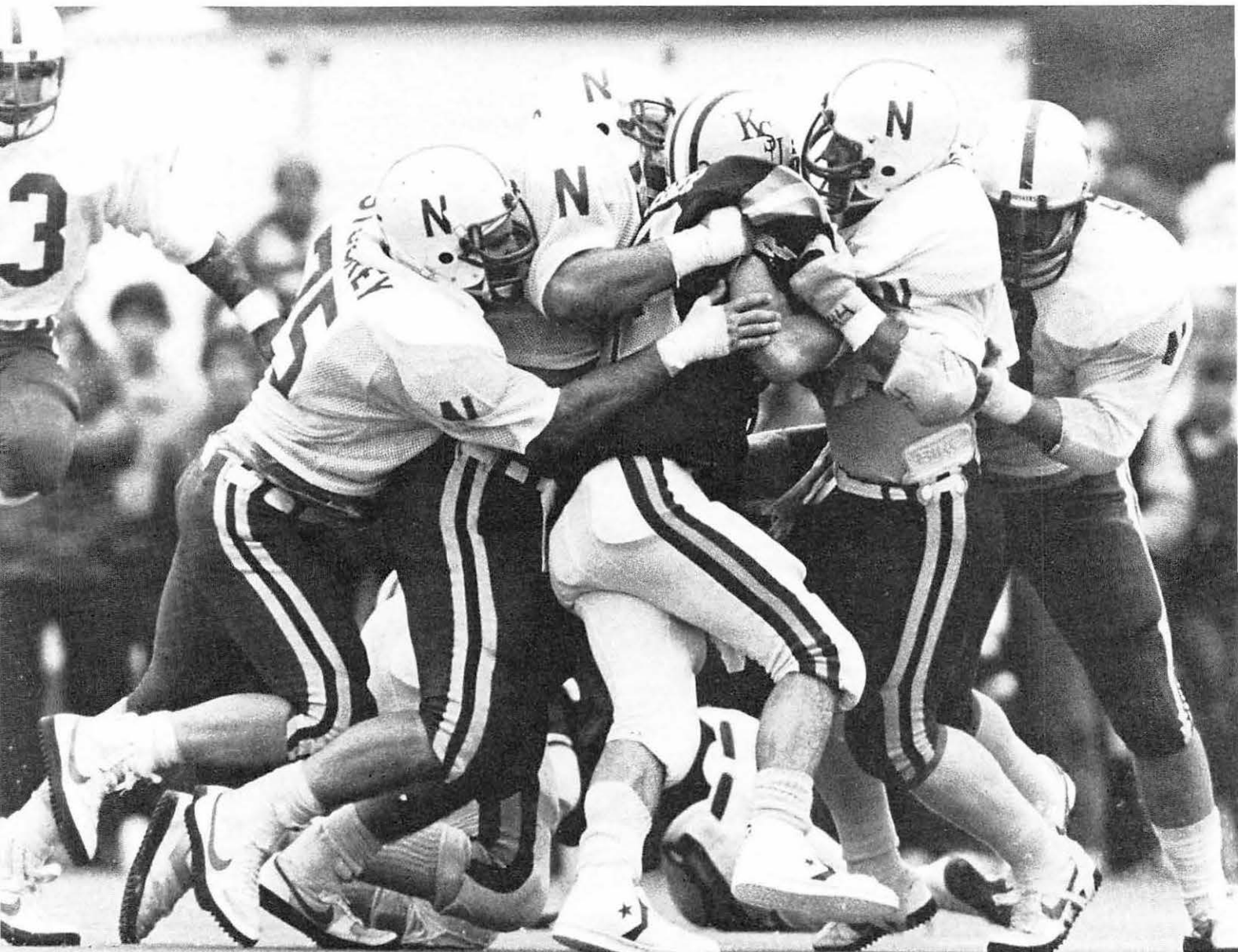
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Kansas State
quarterback Stan Weber
separates a host of
Huskers, including Rob
Stuckey (75).

you should only study when you feel motivated to study," Stuckey explained. "By Friday and Saturday, I wanted to concentrate on one thing — the game."

Stuckey relies on a deep reservoir of confidence. "It's an intangible that comes from mental preparedness," he said. "Mentally, I always feel tougher than the other guy. He can run :04.5 and bench press 500 pounds. But I'm not going to be intimidated. He's still going to have to prove to me that he can beat me."

Stuckey feels his attitude reflects the team's. "Nebraska football comes down to a competitive instinct of not letting anybody beat you," he said. "This year won't be any different. We won't be as talented as we were. But we can still be just as good."

The confidence, the discipline, the desire and the low profile have been Stuckey trademarks.

When he was asked to pose for *Huskers Illustrated* in a suit, Walsh registered a certain amount of surprise.

"He's so shy. He knows his friends are going to get on him. You can count on that," she said.

Nebraska's academic counselor sees the ribbing as part of the camaraderie.

"I think that's what's attracted those players to each other," she said. "They're

so close, they're almost like brothers. There's a substance there to all of them. They recognize something that's real. There's no pretentiousness. They're what we expect from Nebraska players. They're there when you need them."

For Stuckey, this is it. This is his last farewell. His swan song. After the Oklahoma game, it's a Dec. 1 marriage to Kelly Green in Omaha, an Orange Bowl, a bank job and Harvard Business School.

Boom, boom, boom, boom. In that order.

"Nebraska football is the peak of my athletic accomplishments," he said. "For me, it's something to enjoy. I'm in it for the guys and the coaches. I'm not in it for the money. I'm satisfied. After this year, I'll be ready to call it quits. I'd be disappointed, even in the professional ranks." ♦

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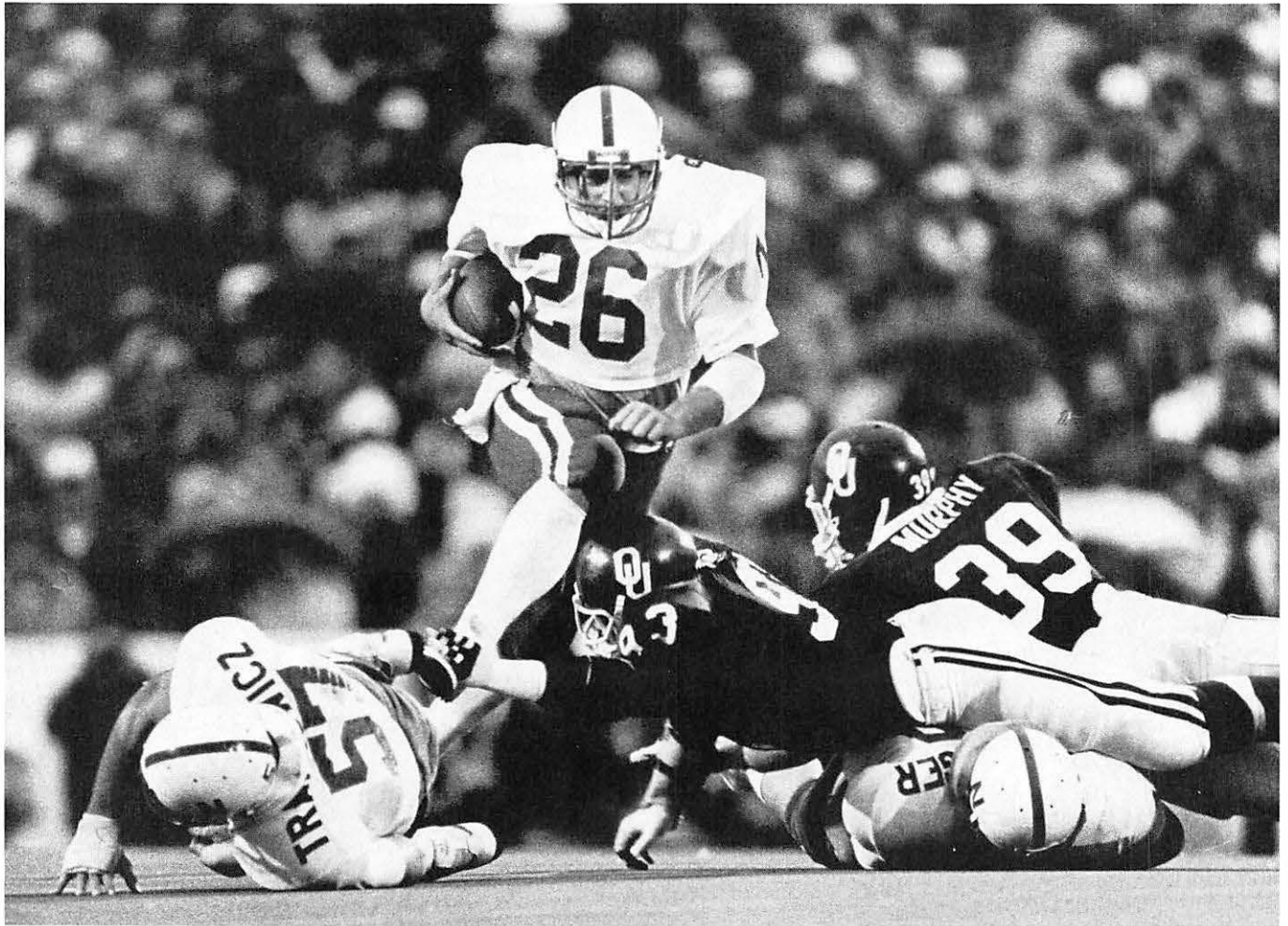


He's A Maniac On The Field

By Mike Babcock

If Rathman hadn't been offered a scholarship, he says he'd still be in Grand Island working at father's construction company.

Tom Rathman hurdles a block by center Mark Traynowicz in last year's Oklahoma game. Rathman is looking at the opportunity to start for two years at Nebraska.





Six is enough — but that's how many it takes to pull Rathman (26) down as he battles Iowa State defenders. "A little contact never hurt anybody," says Rathman.

When Tom Rathman and his wife, Holly, were first engaged, Rathman's Nebraska football teammates used to begin each visit to the Olympic Village sporting goods store Holly manages in downtown Lincoln with a question.

"How can you date that maniac?" they would ask Holly, only half in jest.

Holly Yencer, who became Holly Rathman in May, always responded with a smile. She and Tom began dating when they were junior high classmates in Grand Island. Holly knows her husband changes when he puts on a football uniform — assumes a totally different identity, undergoing a Jekyll-Hyde transformation.

Off the field, Rathman is content spending a quiet evening at home, watching television or jogging with Holly around the trailer park in which they live.

"When I look at Tom, he's always so laid-back. Nothing really fazes him," Holly said. "No matter what happens, he always lands on his feet and keeps right on

going."

On a football field, Rathman always keeps going, too, whether in practice or during a game. But he's far from laid-back.

"He doesn't ask for anything easy, and he doesn't take anything easy," said Nebraska assistant Frank Solich, the offensive backs coach and a former Cornhusker fullback.

"I don't recall a day since Tom's been here that he didn't go out and play hard. The other players have come to expect that from him."

Rathman gives no quarter and he asks none, an essential characteristic of the quality fullback he is. Look up "hard-nosed" in the dictionary, and you might find Rathman's picture.

He wouldn't be smiling; he's plenty tough. "I've always liked to hit," the Cornhusker junior said. "A little contact never hurt anybody. That's why you wear pads."

The source of that lesson is uncertain. It is, however, apparent Rathman learned the lesson at an early age, and learned it well. Few players are more intense in competition.

Holly thinks Tom's dad taught him the intensity which has carried him to the top of Nebraska's depth chart.

His father, who's name is also Tom, is an owner of Manning & Rathman Construction Company. The elder Rathman

has always taken the most direct approach to being successful.

"If something isn't going right, he'll force it to go right," Rathman said.

Each summer was a classroom in which his son was taught that approach. Instead of playing baseball, Rathman worked construction for his father, 10 hours a day. Instead of lifting weights in a weight room each day, Rathman built his strength on the job.

That background has served him well in the demanding world of major college football.

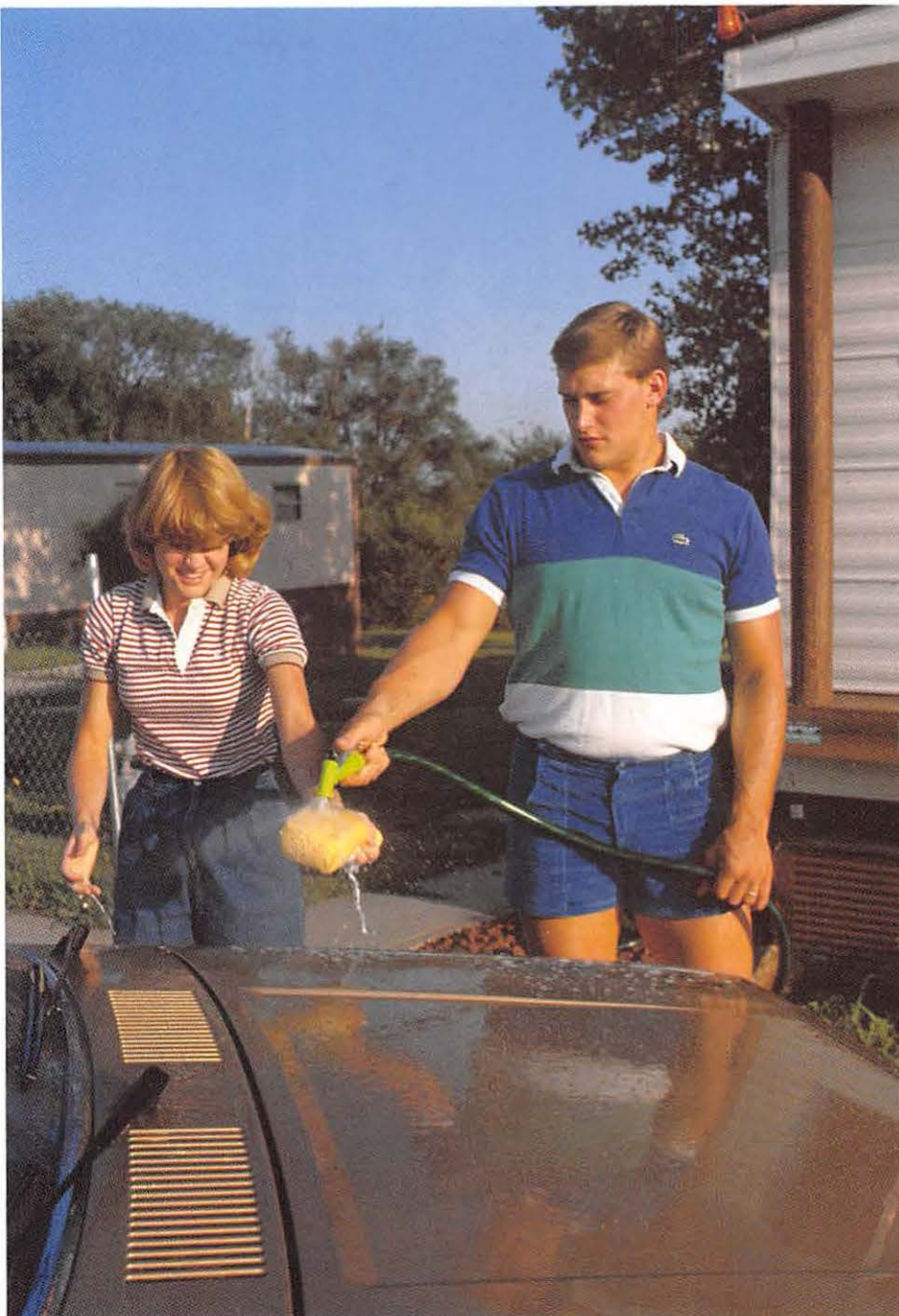
Wherever his intensity came from, Rathman believes it was shaped by his growing up in Grand Island and playing football for Coach Ken Fischer at Grand Island High School.

Nebraska's "Third City" has produced more than its share of good athletes. Almost every year, at least one of the community's high school football players draws recruiting attention from the Cornhuskers.

Grand Island boasts two offensive starters on this year's Nebraska team, Rathman and senior guard Harry Grimmer, another rugged individual who's never been accused of backing down from a challenge.

"I think Grand Island has some tough kids," said Rathman. "Whenever we'd play the Lincoln schools, they'd always call us 'country boys.' I suppose, com-

Rathman is laid back off the football field. Wife Holly, a former distance runner who won silver and bronze medals at state competitions shares an athletic bond with her husband.



pared to guys who come from Lincoln, we are."

No matter what the semantics of the situation, Fischer has always been able to capitalize on it, producing teams that perennially challenge for a spot in the state playoffs.

According to Rathman, Fischer "is a hard-nosed coach, and he's a good coach. I never saw him smile until we won the state championship when I was a sophomore. I know he smiled then, because it was captured in a photograph."

Fischer used a simple, but effective, technique to motivate his players when Rathman was playing linebacker and fullback for him.

Each game, he awarded two stickers to be worn on the recipient's helmet, one for offense and one for defense. After careful consideration, Fischer gave the stickers to those who had made the hardest hits.

They had nothing to do with fumble recoveries, touchdowns or pass interceptions. They represented tough, aggressive play.

"I always wanted to get those stickers," Rathman said. "So I learned to be aggressive in high school."

His senior year, he earned five stickers in six games.

Rathman missed Grand Island's final three games after tearing cartilage in his right knee. The Islanders were 6-0 and

ranked No. 1 in the state when the injury occurred. They finished at 6-3, a record that included a 15-14 loss to archrival Hastings, the Tigers' only victory of the year.

He injured the other leg working construction one summer, falling on galvanized steel and severing a tendon. He had to wear a brace, and the leg "withered up."

Early in his senior season, Nebraska promised Rathman he'd have a scholarship, so he never spent much time trying to decide where he would play college football.

He and three of the state's other outstanding high school football players, Todd Fisher of Omaha Burke, John White of Lincoln Southeast, and Marty Kobza of Schuyler, attended each Cornhusker home game together that fall.

Like Rathman, Fisher, now a Black Shirt defensive back, and White chose Nebraska. Kobza went to Arkansas and has since given up football to concentrate on throwing the discus and putting the shot.

Wyoming also offered Rathman a scholarship early in the fall of his senior year, and if that had been the only one, he might have gone there.

"I wouldn't have gone anywhere without a scholarship," Rathman said. He would have joined his father in the construction business.

Rathman's parents were happy with the way things worked out for their son, not only because he was given the opportunity to compete in football and get a college education, but also because "they've always liked Nebraska football," he said. "They always used to have couples over to watch or listen to the games."

Now, the Rathmans attend the games, home and away. Two years ago, they went to Hawaii to watch the Cornhuskers, even though Tom was a redshirt and didn't make the trip.

Last August, they were in East Rutherford, N.J., for the first Kickoff Classic. That time, so was Tom.

Rathman reported for his freshman year at Nebraska immediately after playing in the Shrine Bowl All-Star game, an experience which caused his college career to start off in the wrong direction, literally.

The numbering system for the North All-Stars' offensive plays was just the opposite of the Cornhuskers' offense. The first couple of days of junior varsity prac-

tice, Rathman kept running right when he was supposed to run left, and vice versa.

It was frustrating for Rathman, who watched while Roscoe Horne, another freshman fullback, enjoyed a brief promotion to the varsity. Once Rathman got his numbers straight, however, he was called up to practice with the varsity, an indication that he fit into the Cornhuskers' future plans.

He rushed four times and gained 20 yards with the varsity as a freshman. "That doesn't mean a thing," he said, prior to the start of last season. "The score was already 48-0 when I got in the game."

Nevertheless, few freshmen get the opportunity to play with the varsity, even briefly, at Nebraska.

Rathman may not have been going in the right direction, initially, but from the first day as a Cornhusker, he was aggressive.

"I've been hard-nosed since I came here," he said. "I was determined to start, and that's how you get the coach's attention, by hitting hard."

"That's the first thing they see, your level of contact."

Rathman hit hard enough to start for an undefeated junior varsity team coached by Solich, finishing second on the team in rushing, with 234 yards in 38 carries. He scored one touchdown.

Rathman's concern when he arrived at Nebraska was measuring his own skills against those of some highly publicized freshman teammates. He quickly found that press clippings had no significance.

"It's just whoever can perform," he said. "Being an All-American in high school, that's nothing." The levels of competition, high school and college, are dramatically different.

In college, "you've got to be perfect or close to it every time, and you've got to go so much harder; you've got to go full-bore on every play."

And, of course, you've got to go in the right direction.

As a freshman, Rathman was determined to establish himself with the varsity by his second year so he could make the travel roster for Hawaii. He was red-shirted, instead.

"We had (Mark) Schellen, (Doug) Wilkening, and (Tim) Brungardt, so why keep four fullbacks?" said Rathman, whose attitude toward the redshirt season has changed since then.

"I'm glad now I redshirted."

Unlike most redshirts, Rathman wasn't assigned to the scout squad. He practiced with the No. 2 offense, which not only spared him some physical pounding but also provided additional evidence that the coaches had plans for him.

"I was pretty fortunate," he said. "I'm glad I redshirted, but at the time, I wasn't too happy about it."

As a redshirt, he was coached by former NU assistant Mike Corgan, another whose philosophy of football was more rough-and-tumble than finesse.

Nebraska's plans for Rathman have been evident from start. He was assigned to the varsity lockerroom at the south end of Memorial Stadium as a freshman, and "I got my (jersey) number from high school," Rathman said. "Only a couple of us did."

Rathman has been playing football since he was 11 years old. He was forced to be an offensive tackle in Grand Island's Jaycee program because he weighed 121 pounds. Backs had to weigh 120 pounds or less.

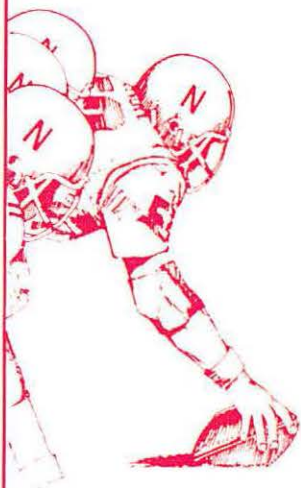
On defense, he was a noseguard. "I liked playing that," Rathman said.

He became a linebacker-fullback in junior high and made the varsity travel squad as a sophomore by playing on special teams. "Being on the travel squad was a big deal then," said Rathman, one of only two sophomores on that state championship team.

He remained at fullback but was moved to strong safety on defense his junior year. As a senior, Rathman switched back to linebacker.

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UPSET IN ORANGE BOWL CONVINCES BILL LEWIS TO CHANGE HIS WAYS — BY RANDY YORK

You've seen before and after pictures for hairpieces and weight-reducing salons.

But how can you show the dramatic difference in a football player's attitude? How can you show where he was before the light went off in his head and where he is after it's been burning for almost eight months now?

Bill Lewis, Nebraska's 6-foot-6, 270-pound "utility" offensive lineman, deserves some sort of before-and-after analysis.

It's the only way to tell the story of this junior from Sioux City, Iowa. You can't do it with pictures, so you have to do it with words.

His before-and-after situation is no weakling becomes strong man on the beach.

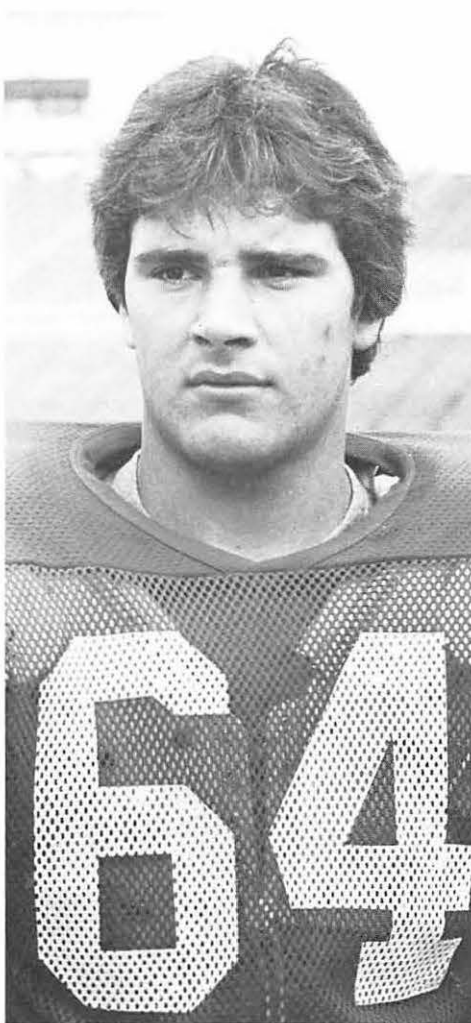
He's always been tough and he's always been talented. But he's never really been turned on.

At least, he wasn't turned on until a few days after Miami edged Nebraska for the national championship, 31-30, in the Orange Bowl.

Before that game, Bill Lewis was a big player with a bad attitude. After that game, he was a man with a mission. A born-again football player. A guy who decided he was finally ready to take responsibility for his own actions.

And now that he has, don't be surprised if Lewis supplants senior Tom Morrow as Nebraska's No. 1 offensive right tackle this fall. Even if he doesn't take over, he is still destined to play at tackle, at guard or at center, where he is officially listed as the back-up to Outland Award candidate Mark Traylor.

"Bill Lewis is going to play a lot of football for us this season," offered Cleve Fischer, Nebraska's veteran offensive line coach. "He had a great spring and there's no reason to think he won't have a great fall. He might have been the most improved player on our football team. He's



going to play somewhere."

For three years, that somewhere was going to be center. But it just as well could have been over the rainbow because Lewis wasn't ready to play big-time football. His attitude wouldn't let him.

"A year ago, you wouldn't have wanted to know Bill Lewis," offered Milt Tenopir, the Huskers' other veteran offen-

sive line coach.

"A couple years ago, he didn't even care to practice," Tenopir said. "Bill was down on a lot of things. He felt we weren't playing him in the right spot. He felt we weren't being fair with him. He balked at the idea of playing tackle and he didn't care about busting his rear. I think even he would be the first to admit his attitude wasn't great."

Lewis pleads guilty. He knows his attitude created such a roadblock, even he couldn't see past it.

"You could say I had a bad attitude," Lewis said, admitting that his slow road to three years of nowhere started almost as soon as he was graduated from East High School in Sioux City.

Contrary to opinions even his teammates have, Bill Lewis was no high school blue-chipper who battled recruiting traffic jams on his front doorstep.

No sir, Lewis didn't even letter as a junior in high school and never started until he was a senior. And in Iowa, he was a second-team All-State center, not a first-team selection.

Part of his problem was positioning. As a prep junior, he played behind his brother, John, a first-team All-State center now looking forward to his third year as a starting defensive end for South Dakota State.

There was no doubt where the Lewis boys got their athletic skills. Their father, Terry, was a professional heavyweight boxer. He won 23 of 25 pro bouts, including 19 by knockout, before settling down to sell insurance in Sioux City.

One thing about living in the same house with a former boxer, you learn the value of quick footwork. Jumping rope was as common in the Lewis household as watching television.

Before he received his high school diploma, Bill could jump rope 289 times in one minute without stopping. It remains the official family record.

When Lewis was recruited, Dave

Rimington was beginning his junior season at Nebraska. Even though he was an A student in high school, Lewis didn't need advanced algebra to figure his future.

Simple math told him that by the time Rimington was graduated, he would have three years of collegiate eligibility remaining. The idea of being Rimington's successor almost destroyed an athlete who was never ready for it until one year after Mark Traynowicz got the job.

"It's not uncommon for kids to look ahead," Tenopir said. "They realize how many years the starters have left when they're recruited. They also get certain positions in mind. Bill Lewis wanted to be a center because Dave Rimington was a center. John Nichols is the same way now. He wants to play center, simply because that's where Rimington played."

Coaches Fischer and Tenopir both knew the simple truth. "Bill wasn't ready to play center," Tenopir said. "He wasn't strong enough. Center takes as much strength as any position on the team. That noseguard is so tight on you, you have to have the strength to fight him off. That was Rimington's asset and that's Traynowicz's asset."

And now, finally, strength is one of Lewis' assets. His 395-pound bench press is more impressive than his :05.05 speed in the 40.

"Bill had always been a big kid, but he'd never really been a strong kid," Tenopir said. "He's just made unbelievable progress. He has tremendous definition. He's imposing-looking. He's strong."

That strength is mental as much as physical. "He's done an unbelievable about-face in the last year or two," Tenopir said. "He's a different person, a different Bill. Someone who didn't even want to practice now wants to play as bad as any kid on this team."

The root of that dramatic turnaround is easily pinpointed. This particular before-and-after story really does boil down to attitude, pure and simple.

"With Dave Rimington's success, yeh, I thought it'd be nice to follow him," Lewis said. "But I wasn't ready for it. I guess I wasn't ready to go away from home. When I got down here and found two million guys, all at the same position, I didn't think about waiting my turn."

Lewis made a fatal mistake. He let the competition overwhelm him, intimidate him, almost devour him.

"When things don't go your way, you start to blame people," he said. "It's easy to get caught up in the bickering."

Fortunately, things change and the best athletes are willing to try a new approach.

"I don't know what it was. But after the Orange Bowl, I just made up my mind that I didn't want to sit on the bench and just exist here anymore," Lewis said.

So what'd he do? "I changed my whole

lifestyle," Lewis said. "I stopped going out. I started studying. I got more sleep. I gained weight during winter conditioning for the first time since I've been here."

Lewis figures that, in effect, his attitude got a transfusion. "It's not that I was wild. I just wasn't disciplined," he said. "The people you're around make a lot of difference."

One of those people was Bob Newton, an ex-Nebraska All-American offensive lineman who started 10 years in the National Football League. Newton has returned to Nebraska to attend classes and help the Huskers as a volunteer assistant.

"One day he cornered me and I can still

remember what he said," Lewis said of Newton. "He told me that no matter what anybody else did, what I did was still the only thing that counted."

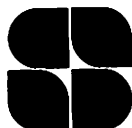
For Lewis, that was an important, if not invaluable discovery. "It opened my eyes. I started worrying more about what I did than what everybody else did," he said. "I finally started figuring that if I just did my best, that was all I could do."

The means became more important than the end. If it was now obvious that Bill Lewis was not the next Dave Rimington, at least he could be himself and contribute in whatever way he could to the team.

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Husker coaches had to keep Lewis behind Traynowicz in the spring because a back-up center is just as important as a back-up quarterback. Someone has to be ready if the No. 1 center goes down with an injury.

But while he marked time behind a healthy Traynowicz, Lewis also practiced at offensive guard. He and his coaches estimate he played guard three-quarters of the spring.

"And he played as well as the guards we had in there," Tenopir pointed out. "He graded as well as Harry Griminger or Greg Orton. He knew what he was doing at center, but he knew what he was doing at guard, too. He's really intelligent, smart as the dickens. He missed very few licks."

Husker coaches are counting on the same kind of results when Lewis moves to right tackle this fall.

"Morrow will be hard to beat out. But Lewis has the potential to be right in there," Tenopir said. "If something were to happen to Tom, we've got to have somebody ready to go."

And Bill Lewis is certainly ready to go. "He's ready to go right now," Tenopir said shortly before the July Fourth holiday weekend. "The kid really wants to play football."

Mark Behning, the Huskers' starting offensive left tackle, can see the eagerness on and off the field.

"I've got an idea that if a guy just throws the bone in the pen, Bill Lewis will chew it up," Behning said. "He's hungry. He wants to play. He's ready to play. He's done everything he can possibly do. He's got the strength, the quickness, the smarts, he's been around and he knows the system."

Even though Lewis is two years older than Marc Munford, Behning compares his sometimes weightlifting partner to the Huskers' rookie linebacker starter.

"They both have the same attitude," he said. "They're just taking it as it comes. They want to play so bad. All they need is the game-time experience. Neither one has gotten his feet wet. But every minute they're in a game, they're going to get better."

According to Behning, Lewis is in the same position he entered last fall. "He reminds me of the way I was looking at

things," Behning said. "All I wanted to do was play. And that's all he wants to do, play some football."

The coaches think Behning has had an influence on Lewis and Behning thinks the coaches have had an influence on him.

"Bill got his chance and he's produced," Behning said. "It's amazing what a little attention will do when you start to get older. The coaches started pulling his chain a little bit and he reacted. That's the way it is with so many guys, give'em a little attention and they'll bend over backwards."

The cause-and-effect isn't the product of favoritism. It is merely the result of increased communication and understanding between coach and athlete.

Maturity is another part of the reality in the turnaround. "When you've been around for three years and you know it, you figure it's time to start performing," Behning said.

Lewis agreed. "My attitude problem developed without me even realizing I had one," he said. "Maturity is the main thing. I was fired up during the spring. It was the first time I enjoyed playing football since high school. I enjoyed it because I stopped worrying about everything else and had fun."

Oh, did he have fun. "I was fired up every day in practice," Lewis said. "It isn't usually that way in the spring. I got a little carried away on a few people, but I was so happy to be out there. I think I just finally learned how important the mental part of the game is."

In the past, Lewis had shown flashes of physical brilliance. "Ken Graeber had always told me that Bill was one of the hardest hitters on the whole redshirt team. I always did expect something good from him," offered Traynowicz.

"I wasn't surprised the way Lewis came

on," he added. "He's really blossomed. When he was playing next to me, there was no drop off from Orton at all. When he moved to tackle, he could have done a great job, he just

didn't like it."

Traynowicz knows why. "Bill just wanted to play center," he said. "And he'll be a good center, a great center, after I'm gone."

"I'm not real sure what the coaches want to do," he said. "I think they want me to play center and tackle. I still prefer center. But I'm motivated. I'm fired up. I want to start. I want to play. I want to contribute."

Griminger saw Lewis' desire in the spring and continued to see it in the summer. "Bill has a lot of talent and a great desire," Harry said. "He's really intense in the weight room."

Tenopir sees the same kind of versatility in Lewis as he saw in Barney Cotton, the Huskers' musical-chair lineman in the late '70s who went to play four years in the pros before a knee injury ended his career.

Cotton was an offensive tackle as a freshman, a back-up center as a sophomore, a starting defensive tackle as a junior and a starting offensive guard as a senior.

"Bill's similar to Barney," Tenopir said. "They've both bounced around. But they're both football smart with a lot of potential."

Behning is interested to see how that potential is tapped this fall. "I have no idea what role they have in store for him. I don't know if he's going to be the handy man or what. He can play all three positions and be good at all three. But he can be tremendous at one."

Behning has heard the rumors about Lewis moving to tackle with the idea of pushing Morrow to higher levels and maybe even surpassing him. The same possibility, though, exists at guard.

It all depends on need. Whatever opportunity presents itself, Lewis is ready.

The Huskers' players and coaches have seen the before-and-after of Bill Lewis.

This fall, the fans are in for the same treat. ♦

Rathman

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Weight lifting was never a part of his preparation for football in high school, though he did visit the weight room on occasion during his rehabilitation following the construction accident.

He was a versatile athlete in high school, who played basketball in the winter and competed in track and field during the spring.

As a junior, Rathman was the state Class A high jump champion, tying for the gold medal by clearing 6-7. He set the Grand Island High School record in the triple jump at 46-1/2.

He already weighed 215 pounds by his junior year, a fact that underscores his considerable athletic talent. He didn't need to lift weights, though he admits now, "I regret that I didn't lift more than I did."

He still has to control his weight. He's playing at between 230 and 235 pounds this fall, but when he began running during the summer, he weighed 242 pounds.

An interest in athletics is one of the bonds between Rathman and his wife. "That's why Tom and I hit it off," said Holly, a former distance runner who won two silver medals and a bronze at the state track meet.

"I enjoy all sports."

Holly moved to Grand Island from Indiana when she was in the sixth grade. Her Indiana roots help explain why, until she began dating Tom, she was more interested, as a spectator, in basketball than football.

This summer was one of routine for Tom and Holly. For Holly, it was work at Olympic Village each day, a job she enjoys and one which allows her the flexibility to be in Memorial Stadium when No. 26 lines up at fullback for Nebraska on Saturdays in the fall.

Holly is making the trip to Pasadena, Calif., with Tom's parents, for the Cornhuskers' game with UCLA.

For Tom, a typical weekday included a summer school class at 7:30 a.m., work at Capitol Supply from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a 5:30 p.m. physical conditioning class. He rarely got home for dinner before 7 p.m.

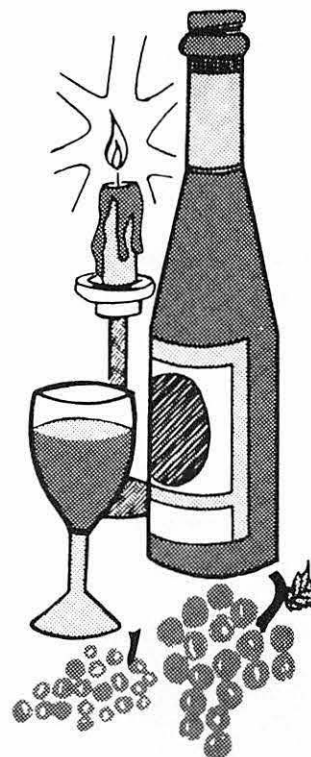
"I didn't work out at all last summer," said Rathman. "But this summer I worked hard. I'm in a position where I'm going to contribute now, so I'm taking things more seriously."

A year ago, "I didn't report in very good shape." Things were different this time around.

Last summer, Rathman pulled a ham-

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A myth has been officially shattered and long live Nebraska, the king of Big Eight athletics...and academics.

Take it straight from Tom Osborne, Nebraska's head football coach, assistant athletic director and resident role model; brains and brawn can and do mix.

"There's always been a myth that major college athletes are too tired to study and can't get good grades," Osborne said. "That's why I was so interested in the Big Eight Honor Roll."

The Big Eight Honor Roll, released by the conference in July, shows Nebraska athletes dominating the league academic scene even more dramatically than the Huskers dominated the all-sports standings.

Forty-two Nebraska male and female athletes met the requirements of earning a varsity letter while maintaining at least a 3.50 grade-point-average.

That made the Huskers a runaway winner in the conference's newly-established program to honor student-athletes.

Nebraska doubled the total of second-place Iowa State, which placed 21 athletes on the Big Eight Honor Roll. Kansas and Missouri each finished with 20, followed by Oklahoma with 17 and Oklahoma State with 14.

Kansas State and Colorado, the perennial tail-enders in Big Eight all-sports comparisons, were also the doormats in the Big Eight Honor Roll with eight selections apiece.

"It's interesting. We had 11 football players make it and no other school in the conference had more than two," Osborne pointed out.

Missouri was the school with two football players on the Big Eight Honor Roll. Oklahoma State and Kansas State each had one. Four schools — Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Iowa State — did not place a single football player on the Big Eight Honor Roll.

To Osborne, somewhere in there is a message. The Huskers' unwavering emphasis on the academically-oriented athlete is paying huge dividends both on and off the field.

Four of those football players making the Big Eight Honor Roll are scheduled to start again for Nebraska this fall. They include defensive tackle Rob Stuckey, who has a 3.869 GPA in finance; defensive end Scott Strasburger, who has a 3.84 in premed; defensive end Bill Weber, who has a 3.689 in business; and center Mark Traynowicz, who has a 3.555 in engineering.

Osborne believes it's no coincidence that Nebraska is experiencing academic rewards in multiple doses.

"A lot of it is the general environment," he said. "It helps when a lot of players see





Dr. June B. Davis,
Assistant Athletic
Director and Women's
Athletic Director.

other players doing well. When you have some role models, you can develop a mind set on your team."

Osborne, the coach with a doctorate in educational psychology, is always the scientist looking for the edge in percentages.

He knows a smarter football team means a better football team.

The more intelligent the football team, "the faster you can put things in," Osborne said.

Intelligence also helps a player "adapt and adjust faster when the opponent changes things," added Osborne. "The brighter the guy is, the better chance he has to pick those things up."

Brighter athletes mean "less of a burden on tutors, graduation and all these things," Osborne said. "By and large, this year's group is one of the best we've ever had. We have very few academic problems among our players."

Such fortune does not just happen. Dr. Ursula Walsh, Nebraska's academic counselor, insists it is the result of honesty in and quality of recruiting.

"There's no question it's the recruiting," she said. "It's also the self-selection by the players we have."

Nebraska has a reputation for heavy academic emphasis in all of its athletic programs.

"A player knows the importance we place on academics before he ever gets here and it either turns him on or off," Walsh said.

Sometimes, she added, a player may not even choose to visit Nebraska because he knows "we're conservative. We're serious about our sports and we're serious about our education. When a recruit tries to match up with that, it's automatically to our advantage. If he doesn't pick up on that, he doesn't choose us."

Walsh sees "a spirituality at home" in the situation. "Something about us just clicks," she said.

An athlete who looks at Nebraska honestly may say "I need this kind of thing," Walsh said. "But if you have a party-orientation, you certainly won't pick us. You'll go to UCLA or Boulder. You'll go to the beach or go to the mountains."

An athlete often chooses Nebraska's orientation because he trusts himself more in an environment asking him "to tow the line."

Walsh realizes that "not everybody would like that. But there's a great tradition of people in Nebraska, the pride of Nebraska, and the support of Nebraska."

Jann Steel, Walsh's academic counselor counterpart for NU women's athletics and some minor men's sports, shares the philosophy.

Most women student-athletes "are not going to have the same opportunities as the men," Steel said. "That's obvious and everybody knows it. But when you get into the high-powered world of women's athletics, when you get into the top 10 in the country, it's very important that women realize they have to support themselves after they gain the national publicity and notoriety."

Steel stresses "the importance of pursuing a degree that can be marketable to be successful and happy and lead a fulfilling life."

According to Steel, "our philosophy is a lot different than normal academic counseling offices. I'm in my fifth year here and when a student is doing poorly, I find out it isn't because he or she isn't interested. Ninety-nine out of 100 times, it's because he or she doesn't know how to study it or learn it."

In a nutshell, Steel sees her job as "teaching people how to learn instead of just facts."

Steel has an unproven theory. "I think you can take any person who's highly motivated to achieve in athletics and that motivation can be transferred to learn the value of an education," she said.

At Nebraska, every incoming freshman

receives "a very intense approach to learning skills," Steel said.

If an athlete has had 18 years of "not much influence" among coaches, teachers and teammates, that will change at Nebraska.

"In an environment like ours, when you're asked to work hard and practice hard every day, you start to assume other values," Steel said. "You start to realize your brain can also achieve what your body is achieving."

Walsh sees virtue in the system. "You see people who haven't had it academically get hungry for it and want it badly," she said. "Some turn on out of the blue."

Still, Nebraska is making a habit of recruiting "more motivated students," Steel said. "We're getting a certain type of athlete at Nebraska. We're attracting some of the country's top athletes. But we're attracting serious students, too. Our coaches try not to recruit those naturally-gifted athletes who have no motivation to improve or develop. Those types are difficult to keep in college."

Dr. June B. Davis, the Nebraska women's athletic director, says the Huskers' academic success directly correlates with their athletic achievement.

"I think it takes a super individual to hack it at the Division I level these days," Davis said. "With all the time it takes to practice and travel and study, you have to have it between the ears. That's why our coaches are recruiting the best student-athletes."

The coaches "push the total program," Davis said. "We have such an awesome program at Nebraska. Everywhere you go, colleagues talk about Nebraska's total program. We don't just have patches of success. Whenever I sit down and talk, I realize I'm talking about all of our sports — men and women."

Davis said the NU women's program owes much of its success to the success of the men's program and the example set by football, the heart and soul of all Husker athletics.

"I'm proud to work with a person of Tom Osborne's caliber," Davis said. "He has established a quality that other people look up to and try to emulate in so many ways."

Davis credits Steel for her "inventive" academic counseling program that "really helps that freshman athlete who's so young and so naive and gets hit from so many directions by so many different people."

To Davis, there's a certain snowball effect to it all. "We want all athletes to be productive people in the community," she said. "We want them all to be leaders and role models. We want daughters to say: 'I can do that' and do good things for the state and good things for the university."

World-class sprinter Merlene Ottey is a good example. "She's a certified world

competitor," Davis pointed out. "But she also graduated."

Athletes doing something "attractive to themselves" have a long-term effect "on the tradition of the university," Davis said. "We're crazy if we don't recruit the kind of people who want to come back and keep that tradition going."

That means Nebraska isn't always interested in recruiting the so-called superstar.

"Over a period of time, coaches find out that the energies put into keeping some athletes eligible is more than it's worth," Davis said. "We may not always get the top 100 athletes recruited by everyone. But we'll get an athlete hungry to compete and hungry to get an education."

Together, the combination is difficult to beat. The Huskers' high academic standards translated into a fourth consecutive Big Eight combined all-sports championship.

This past year, NU won championships in football and swimming en route to the men's all-sports title. The Huskers finished with 67 points to edge Oklahoma and Missouri, which tied for second with 63 points apiece.

Nebraska won titles in volleyball, softball, outdoor track and indoor track en route to the women's all-sports title. The Huskers easily outdistanced Missouri, 66-

54.

In the combined race, Nebraska's 133-point total was 19½ points better than runner-up Oklahoma.

Nebraska and Iowa State are the only two schools to field teams in all 21 sports sponsored by the conference. Schools without teams receive no points in that particular sport in the all-sports tabulations.

"We were competitive in all but one men's sport and that was a seventh-place finish in golf," offered NU Athletic Director Bob Devaney, citing Gary Pepin for making the most dramatic strides in the men's program.

In 1982-83, the Husker men finished sixth in outdoor track, seventh in cross country and eighth in indoor track. In 1983-84, they were second in outdoor track, second in cross country and third in indoor track.

"He did a good job with what he had," Devaney said of Pepin. "He's got a tremendous future. If anybody can get us close to winning the whole ball of wax (the NCAA), he's the one."

Nebraska baseball Coach John Sanders gives his endorsement to Devaney for keeping the Huskers on top in the conference.

"He's a nationally-known athletic direc-

tor," Sanders said. "He's in the National Football Hall of Fame, but he hasn't rested on that."

With Devaney, "baseball is important to our school, track is important to our school...every sport is important to our school," Sanders said.

Devaney "gives us that support with the feeling that each sport has an important role to play," Sanders said.

"He's willing to allow each coach to coach and yet never gets in the way. Sometimes, that's hard to do. But with him, it's no problem. He gives us all the desire to be successful, within the rules and regulations of our programs."

Huskers on Big Eight Honor Roll

Marc Adam, track & cross country, sr., 3.94, business; Nicole Ali, track & cross country, so., 3.552, economics; Kelli Benson, basketball, sr., 3.935, physical education; Renee Bosle, gymnastics, sr., 3.717, nursing; Don Bourn, football, jr., 3.538, accounting; Dan Casterline, football, jr., 3.75, physical education; Stephanie Clennan, diving, fr., 3.607, undeclared; Wally Duffy, track & cross country, sr., 3.94, pre-med; Denise Eckert, softball, sr., 3.604, physical education; Todd Fisher, football, jr., 3.94, pre-med; Grant Gabrielson, golf, sr., 3.67, business; Shelly

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Godeken, golf, sr., 3.536, history; Mark Gokie, track & cross country, 3.65, social science; Mark Hagerman, football, sr., 3.833, physical education; Tom Hoffman, track & cross country, jr., 4.0, business; Chris Knust, baseball, sr., 3.67, accounting; Annette Madigan, gymnastics, jr., 3.5, physical education; Karen Mangan, golf, so., 3.824, business; John Matzke, basketball, so., 3.75, mathematics; Jim Mikus, gymnastics, sr., 3.65, business; Jill Noel, track & cross country, fr., 3.739, pre-dentistry; Terri Parriott, basketball, jr., 3.672, pre-med; Mark Perlinger, track & cross country, so., 3.86, agriculture; Jill Pisarcik, tennis, fr., 3.538, recreation; Sallye Ramsey, volleyball, sr., 3.667, architecture; Chuck Rea, swimming, jr., 3.52, computer science; Lori Richins, softball, fr., 3.714, physical education; Bill Scherr, wrestling, sr., 3.85, social science; Jim Scherr, wrestling, sr., 3.69, business; Scott Schoettger, football, so., 3.795, business; Linda Sebesta, swimming, so., 3.519, mathematics; Jim Sieckmann, golf,



Men's Swimming
Coach Cal Bentz (upper left); Softball Coach Wayne Daigle (upper right); Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit (lower left); and Track and Field Coach Gary Pepin (lower right). All did their part to earn the All-Sports title.



fr., 3.53, undeclared; Matt Strasburger, football, so., 3.75, business; Scott Strasburger, football, jr., 3.84, pre-med; Rob Stuckey, football, jr., 3.869, finance; Deb Thompson, volleyball, sr., 3.625, finance; Mike Tranmer, football, sr., 3.75, agriculture; Mark Traynowicz, football, jr., 3.555, engineering; Bill Weber, football, jr., 3.689, business; Laura Wight, track & cross country, fr., 3.705, geography; Scott Wilson, tennis, sr., 3.6, geology; Kevin Wood, wrestling, sr., 3.62, business. ♦

All-Sports Final Points

MEN (finish)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Football	NU	OU, MU	—	IS, OS	—	KU, CU	—	KS
Basketball	OU	KU	NU	IS, CU	—	OS, MU, KS	—	—
Outdoor Track	IS	NU	MU	OU	OS	KS	KU	CU
Indoor Track	IS	MU	NU	OS	OU	KS	CU	KU
Cross Country	IS	NU	KS	KU	CU	OS	MU	OU
Golf	MU	OU, OS	—	CU	KU	IS	NU	KS
Baseball	OS	OU	NU	MU	IS	KU	KS	X
Tennis	OS	OU	KU	NU	CU	IS	KU	KS
Wrestling	OS	IS	OU	NU	MU	X	X	X
Swimming	NU	IS	MU	KU	OU	X	X	X
Gymnastics	OU	NU	IS	X	X	X	X	X
All Sports	NU	IS, OU	—	OS	MU	KU	CU	KS
Points	67	63, 63	—	49	46½	35½	23	20

WOMEN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Basketball	MU, KS	—	OU, OS	—	KU	NU	CU	IS
Swimming	KU	NU	MU	OU	IS	X	X	X
Outdoor Track	NU	KS	MU	KU	OU	IS	OS	CU
Indoor Track	NU	KS	MU	OU	KU	IS	CU	OS
Softball	NU	OS	IS	OU	MU, KS, KU	—	—	X
Cross Country	IS	MU	KS	NU	CU	KU	OS	X
Tennis	OS	OU	KU	NU	IS	CU	KS	X
Golf	OS	NU	MU, OU	—	IS	KU	KS	X
Volleyball	NU	MU	OU, IS	—	KS, KU	—	X	X
Gymnastics	OU	NU	MU	OS	IS	X	X	X
All Sports	NU	MU	OU	IS	KU	OS	KS	CU
Points	66	54	50½	42½	39½	38½	38	12

COMBINED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
All Sports	NU	OU	IS	MU	OS	KU	KS	CU
Points	133	113½	105½	100½	87½	75	58	35

Point totals based on 8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 for first-through-last place finishes. X indicates non-participation by conference school.



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Boys Town also just completed a brand new urban high school in Omaha for youngsters who would otherwise be "on the streets." And it's just the cornerstone of a model program which will soon be adapted to other inner city areas across the United States. We're pioneering many new and innovative ways to help America's troubled youth. But our home town, just west of Omaha, is still the real heart of the Boys Town spirit.

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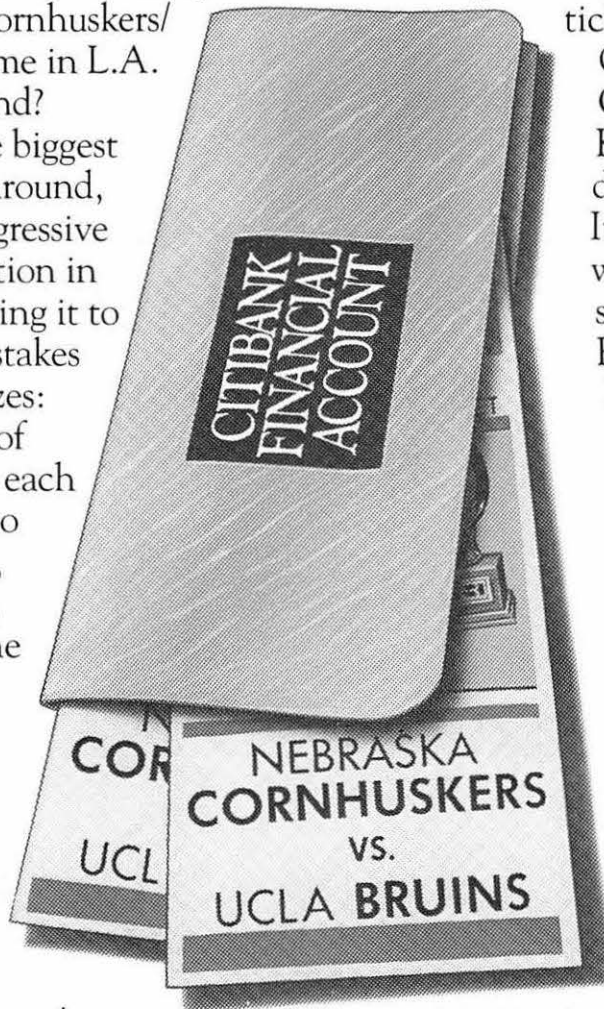
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Sheppard

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ble in the first-team offense, something "I seldom do," he said. "But I wanted them to get a handle on the mental part of being with the top unit, so I gave them that chance.

"We ran a '41 sprint,' with both of them out wide. They were supposed to do a double crack-back, and they did it at the same time. Both guys knocked down their men. They were excited about it, and so was I."

Because of his experience as a running back, Sheppard knew what to do with the football once he got his hands on it. "He's showed some fine running ability," Huey said.

Huey compares Sheppard to Kenny Brown, a former Cornhusker wingback and co-captain. He even resembles Brown in physical appearance.

Former Nebraska tight end Junior Miller visited practice one afternoon during the spring, and Huey called him over. "Recognize that guy?" Huey asked, pointing at Sheppard.

Miller did a double-take.

"From a distance, Junior thought it was Kenny Brown, and he and Kenny roomed together on the road," said Huey.

In addition to Nebraska, Sheppard took recruiting visits to Louisiana State and Georgia Tech, cancelling a trip to Indiana after deciding on the Cornhuskers.

That decision wasn't well-received in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, and some people there "are still upset that I came to Nebraska. A couple of sportswriters there have really gotten on me about it.

Former Minnesota head coach Joe Salem wasn't happy about Sheppard's choosing of Nebraska, either.

Fryar had a hand in helping Sheppard get through his freshman year at Nebraska, taking him aside one day for a talk. "I would've been in really bad shape, but Irving told me to stick with it; he said he'd had similar problems when he was a freshman," said Sheppard.

"He's a really nice guy. I've got a lot of respect for him."

Besides learning what it took to compete as a Cornhusker and adjusting to the new environment, Sheppard's only other trouble in the fall wasn't of his own creation. "I had like a heatstroke the third or fourth day of practice," he said. "I couldn't believe the heat and humidity here."

Nebraska's late-summer heat and humidity may be unbelievable, but no more so than the spring in Sheppard's legs. His success in the long jump is evidence of that.

"Von has outstanding jumping ability," said Huey. "He's like the guy in the Toyota commercial. He can get up there, and he just keeps going higher and higher." ♦

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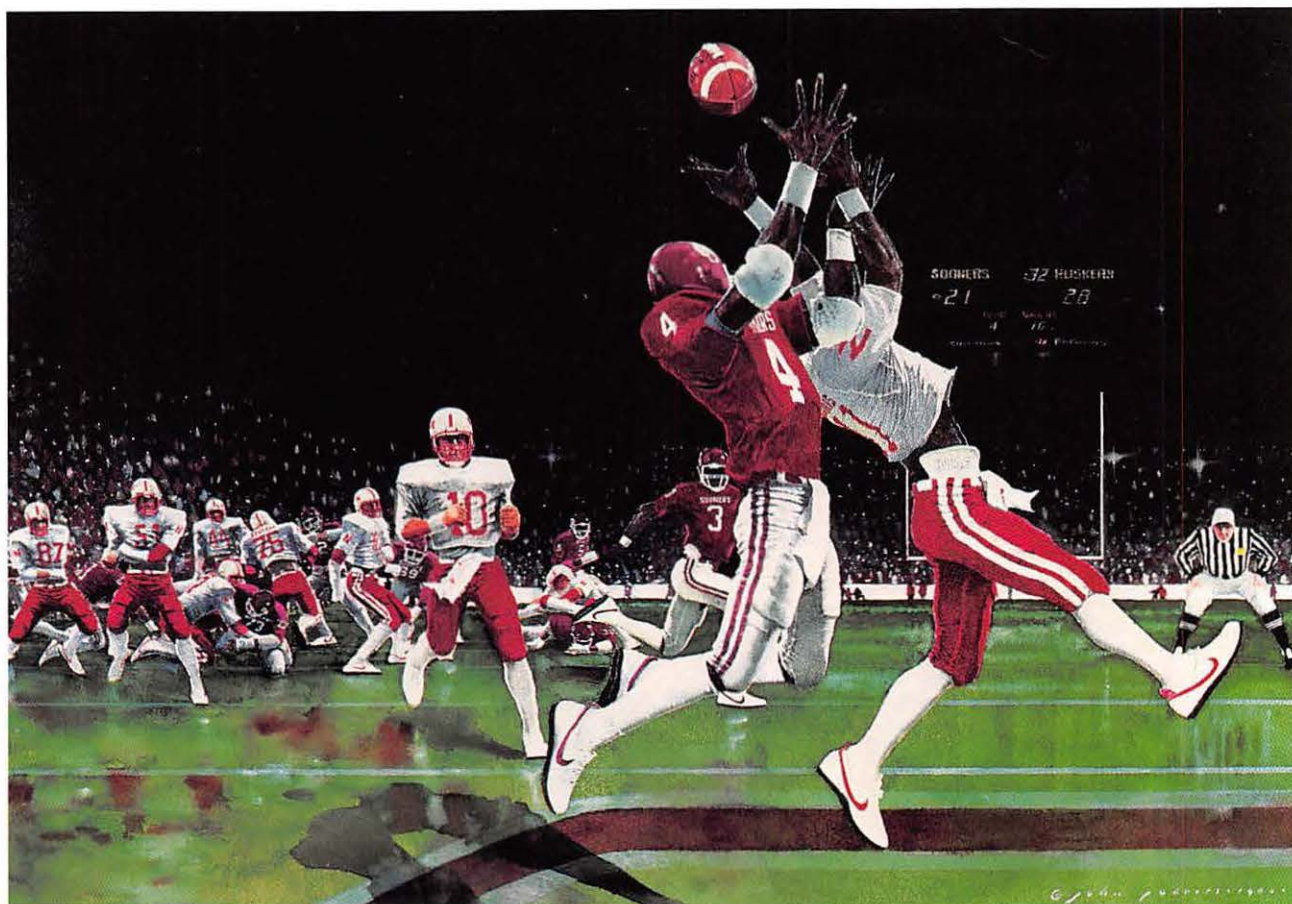
Cornhuskers



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By John Roberts

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string playing softball in Grand Island, the first of two injuries which hampered his progress during the season. Just before the UCLA game, he sprained an ankle.

This summer, he rarely played softball, only driving to Grand Island on occasion when friends in need of a catcher called.

Though he's not one to set personal goals, Rathman doesn't hesitate to articulate a team goal for the 1984 Cornhuskers. "I'd like to win the national championship," he said. "We should have won it the last three years."

Even though the Cornhuskers lost Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier and several other key offensive players, "Nebraska has had a history of replacing good backs with good backs," Rathman said. "We've got three guys there (at I-back) who have the potential to be as good as Mike Rozier."

Those three, of course, are senior Jeff Smith, junior Paul Miles, and sophomore Doug DuBose.

Heading into fall camp, Rathman and senior Scott Porter were the only proven fullbacks around to open holes for those three. Awareness of that fact intensified Rathman's approach to his summer training.

He figured he'd be playing behind Schellen as a sophomore, but this season, Rathman knows he'll be starting. As a result, his intensity picked up even more. Teammates still hate to see him running in their direction during practice.

"Having Tom at fullback will be a strong point for us," said Solich. "He has a lot of playing experience, and he had a great spring. He has the size, speed and aggressiveness to be a tremendous fullback. He's proven that."

"With some fullbacks, you pick one thing they do a little better than the others, but he can block, he has good quickness, and he's aggressive. It's hard to pick out just one thing."

He can still be a "maniac" on the field, of course. His competitive aggression has never abated. Rathman's looking at two seasons as a starter.

"I think Tom's a good example of what this year's team is going to be," Holly said.

"It'll bite, kick and scratch for everything it can get." ♦



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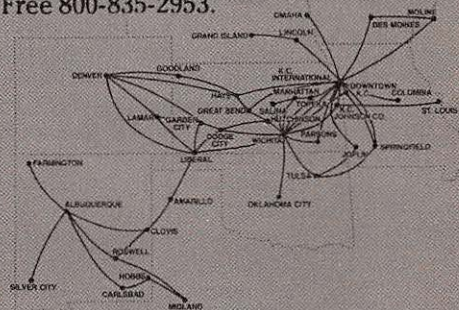
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Ask Tom Osborne

If you have questions for Coach Tom Osborne, write to the *Huskers Illustrated*, Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. We reserve the right to select only those questions we feel appropriate.

Eight walkons will be starting for the Cornhuskers this season. Where would Nebraska's football program be without an active walkon program? In addition, can you explain how the program works and why it works so well?

"First, we might not be very good without a walkon program. Some schools don't want to be bothered with walkons; in fact, they really kind of discourage walkons. Other schools will encourage walkons.

"Our situation is a little bit unique because there isn't a Nebraska State. We're the only Division I school in the state, while in Kansas, schools like Kansas, Kansas State and Wichita State tend to split up the players down there.

"Another factor involved in making our walkon program successful is, we have a freshman football team on which young players get a chance to play. We save scholarships for walkons, on the average of five to seven a year.

"Saving scholarships can be a two-way street, of course. This year, we gave out 17 grants. I believe Missouri gave out 25, and everybody else in the Big Eight gave out between 28 and 30. So you know there weren't very many schools in the conference that could give more than one or two scholarships to walkons.

"The reason we limited ourselves to 17 was the NCAA rule allowing a maximum of 95 players on scholarship at any one time. We felt like we still wanted to give five or six scholarships to walkons. From that standpoint, we may end up with a total of 22 or 23 scholarships awarded. We really cut ourselves down compared to everybody else in the Big Eight so we'd have something for the walkons.

"If you're going to have a good walkon program, you've got to have some scholarships for those people who can play.

"There have been articles in newspapers down south that we give out county scholarships, that the 90-some counties in Nebraska each give out scholarships to players, and the county scholarships are worth more than the regular scholarships. John Fruhmorgen was told that, and he changed his mind about coming to Nebraska.

"We've talked to other players in Texas and the deep south who have asked us about county scholarships. People will tell them we've got 30 scholarships plus 90 county scholarships, so we're bringing in 120 players on scholarship. There's an awful lot of people around the country who believe that somehow or another we're cheating on walkons.

"It's a very common belief, but it's not true.

"As for how we go about recruiting walkons, we look at films and have, basically, two weekends on which we'll ask 20 to 25 walkons to pay their own way to visit here and look at the campus. Most schools don't do that.

"A walkon walks on in the fall. We try to have them come here and get an idea of what's available as far as academics and facilities, those kinds of

things. If you show a little interest in them and give them some attention, a few people will be willing to walk on. We take a little more time with them.

"Then, we have the freshman program, and we don't cut them or give up on them as quickly as a lot of schools would.

"It's really a difficult decision, when you've got a guy who's being recruited by a lot of people and wants to come to Nebraska, as to whether you go ahead and take him and sacrifice some walkon who's in your program.

"It didn't happen as much last year, but the year before last, I'd say we had about 40 players who wanted to come here, who were bona fide major college football players that we could have signed, and I think we signed 23."

A senate education subcommittee recently charged that colleges are exploiting student-athletes. Do you think such a charge is justified?

"I sometimes get a little concerned, but I don't quite understand what's going on when people talk about being exploited. No one's really been exploited, I don't believe, unless he wants to be. It's a concern and worth looking into. But whether you participate in college athletics is voluntary. I think that's something people need to keep track of.

"I'm not saying there aren't abuses. But there are two sides to the story, and nobody has to go to college, nobody has to play football, and nobody has to play basketball. That's their right, their choice.

"Look at some of the players who claim they've been exploited. What was the alternative? They maybe spent four years in a college and may not have gotten a degree. But they had some associations; they went to some classes, and they had some experiences they wouldn't have had on the street.

"I've been to a lot of places around the country, recruiting, and I can't say a lot of players are worse off for having gone into college athletics. For the most part, we feel we've done a good job. But a player who leaves here without a degree is always an embarrassment to me. I really feel bad about that.

"We've legislated, we've tutored, we've talked, and we've threatened. But it still comes back to the individual. If the individual wants to get a degree, you can hardly keep him from getting one if he's motivated.

"On the other hand, if a player is determined not to graduate, there's hardly any way you can make him graduate. So what happens on occasion, and we don't like to see it happen, is exploitation with consent. The athletes know what course they're taking. They know whether they're making progress toward a degree. And they know what they're getting into.

"The alternative is, no scholarship, no college, and you're back home walking down to the street corner. What do you do?" ♦

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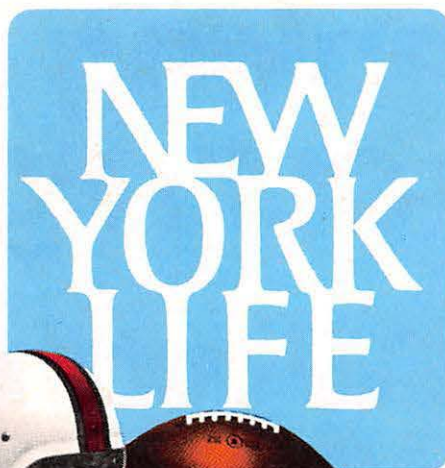
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